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News

Edition 11 ~ September 2017



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The Australian Commando Association's membership consists of Servicemen who have served with Independent Companies, Commando Squadrons, "M" and "Z" Special units and Special Forces during and since the Second World War.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed within this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the Editor, Publisher, Committee Members or Members of our Association. We welcome any input as long as it is not offensive or abusive but if any member has a problem with a printed article we would like to be informed in order that the author may be contacted. We do encourage your opinion.

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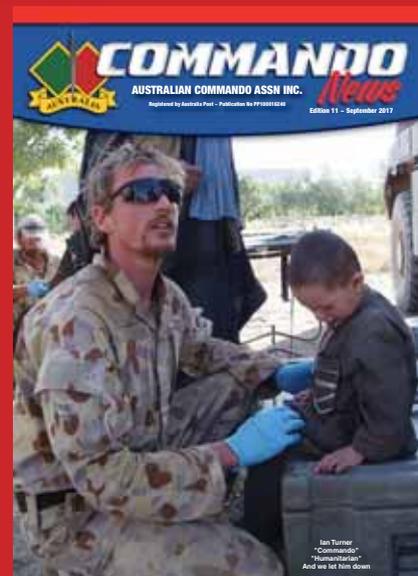
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Deadline for next edition:

MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY 2018

All news on members and interesting articles accepted.
(Subject to editors' approval.)

Barry G



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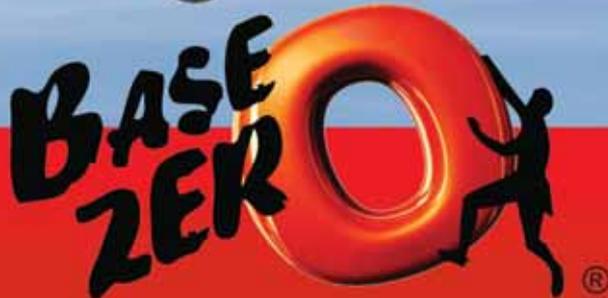


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NSW President & Editor's Report

This edition is running late for many reasons and I apologise for my tardiness.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

It is with some sadness that we report the passing of our National President, MajGen Mike Clifford, AM CSC. Mike has been battling a cancer for some time and finally succumbed a couple of weeks ago.

Hard time trying to replace a talent such as his.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The next edition of "Commando News" will have report on the Australian War Memorial's exhibition "From Out of the Shadows".

The exhibition opened recently after almost 12 months of preparation. The Museum is to be congratulated and I attended the opening night with members of SOCOM.

They have brought together Commando items from WW2 and recent conflicts as well as memorabilia from along the way.

It is a must see exhibition and will be running for the next 12 months.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Also, when in Canberra I attended the unveiling of the Memorial to Australian Peacekeepers. Seated behind me was Commando Royalty, Doug and Kay Baird. This Memorial is to all Australian Peacekeepers who have served our country in this role.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

At the AGM of the NSW Association I gave notice that 2018 would be my last year in the role as President.

I have been President since 2001 (1 Commando Association, 1st Commando Regiment Association and Australian Commando Association NSW).

It is time I spent more time with my wife, that combined with some health problems in 2017, has made the decision a whole lot easier.

So in the next 12 months it will be time for others in the Association to step up, hopefully some of younger members who will be the future of the Association.

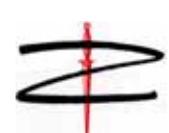
Those who say it is full of "old blokes", whilst true, without younger members of the units joining the risk of the Association waning is a real possibility.

Up to you fellow Commandos.

Barry Grant



Keith Payne VC has his brush with fame, our very own Brian Gerber



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From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell



Dear Editors,

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this instalment. Time got away from me as I waited for the plaster to come off my right arm; it still hasn't, but I'll do my best. I am not sure if my June instalment went to Cav News, so will ask Kathie to send it again, just in case. And to explain the reference to plaster: back on 2nd August, I decided to follow Ted Workman's example by falling over backwards. This time I broke my right arm again and bruised my hip so that though not broken this time, it prevented me from walking. They let me come home after a week or so, whereupon I responded by getting an unusual belly ache – so back to Casualty, feeling a bit silly. But few things concentrate the mind more quickly than to hear the surgeon say casually: "If I operate today, there is a 50/50 chance that you will live. If I don't, you'll be dead in 48 hours. Do you want me to operate?" A toss of the double headed penny helped me to decide, after half a second's careful consideration and here I am, somewhat better informed if not any the wiser. I hadn't even known that I had an ulcer, let alone that it was about to perforate my duodenum. I was glad that I did not have to rely on old Goldie, our RAP Corporal. A dab of Castellani's paint and 24 hours light duties might not have worked.

Before I begin, may I offer my congratulations to Jimmy Muir (2/9) on his appointment as Patron of the Victorian Branch of our old 6 Div Cav Association – now the only functioning Branch remaining? Good on you, Jim; stay on your feet!

I have been talking to Ted MacMillan (2/9) who is in reasonable health but ruing the overgrowth of stinging nettles in his garden at Burra. Kathie points out that he can look forward to a wonderful display of butterflies . . . Angie Olsen, widow of Joe (2/9) is enjoying life at Sunnybank. Max Drummond (2/6. 2/9) is soldiering on in his nursing home at Albury. On most days, the highlight is Janet wheeling him round the block in his wheelchair but yesterday was special, for son Peter brought his son to visit grandfather. Pete and his wife will be travelling to Japan soon to show him off to his Japanese grandparents.

Now for the important news of the year. It's VALE NX58832, Edward Frederick Ted) Byrne, M.C., MID (2/7). Not quite the most decorated member of 2/6 Cav (Commando) Regiment; that would be Lt. Colonel Eric Hennessey, DSO, MC. One step behind his old mate Pat O'Shea, MC and Bar, who left 2/7 for 2/8 and did not, I believe, serve in the 2/6 Regiment. But there's no other rival. And after being wounded (twice) during the Aitape-Wewak campaign, he was sent to India and served in Burma with the rank of Major.

Barry Grant has sent me Ted's Service Details, which show that he joined the AIF on 11.7.1940, aged 20 years. Anticipating hostilities, he had already served for 18 months in the CMF as a gunner. He was commissioned on 1.5.41, in 7 Independent Company.

The citation for his Military Cross, recommended by Lt. Col. T.F.B. McAdie, reveals that he *had led a section of 2/7 Cavalry (Commando) Sqn from Oct 42 to Nov. 43 and has fought with it at Wau, Mubo, Bena Bena, and the Ramu*

Valley. He has shown at all times strong leadership and splendid courage for which he is recognised by every officer and man in his unit.

In two actions in particular this officer demonstrated great offensive spirit in face of heavy casualties, and performed great feats of courage and endurance in his attempt to get out wounded men. His skill and coolness in evading enemy positions and patrols and reconnaissance's have been responsible for the collection of valuable data of enemy dispositions and plans. On such patrols this officer has endured great hardships and shown devotion to duty to an extraordinary extent.

No system of awards can be perfect. Even the Victoria Cross can be won by a single act of spur-of-the-moment valour. Don't think that I am in any way detracting from the glory of the V.C; when I was young, I was taught to raise my hat to any wearer of that little maroon ribbon and I still do. But there is a strong argument that constant acts of bravery, day after day, are more to be admired than the rush-of-blood-to-the-head type. Think about it.

Following a successful business career in Sydney after the war, Ted retired to "Cactus Cottage" at Broken Head, near Byron Bay where he ran cattle and rode the razorbacks on a "quad-bike". He died in August at the RSL War Vets home, Collaroy. I hope to be able to add some more to this in due course.

Now for a little experience of my own. Back in 1944, when we had finished our basic training at Cowra, and had been allocated to our chosen branch of the service (if we were lucky), our Company was sent to Young to take part in a Victory Loan Rally. After tea we were invited to a concert, consisting mainly of Community singing: Siegfried Line, Lili Marlene, White Cliffs, Tipperary etc. I was sitting beside a 14 year old Boy Scout (4 years my junior) who was bursting to join up and who was a keen collector of Military Memorabilia. He asked for a colour patch and I said I would send him one when I had joined a Squadron. I took his name and address. When I joined the Rear Party, our main body was already in Aitape and colour patches were not worn. After VJ Day, I sent him one. He was then working in a Bank. He thanked me and that was the end of our acquaintance.

In 2014 my 97-year-old sister died. She had been writing a family history and I am currently working on privately publishing it. This involves contacting some hundreds of relatives, most of whom are strangers to me. One referred me to his sister, who was not even on my list. I rang her and we chatted. She was a War Widow and her husband had served in Korea. He had been a collector of Military Memorabilia, and had grown up in Young. Yes, he had worked in a Bank for a time. And his name? Yes, 73 years on I found that young Neil Miller had married my 3rd cousin once removed! Beats fiction, doesn't it? I'm afraid he was a bit disappointed at not getting a Double Diamond! I'd like to have met him again . . .

Well, deadlines for both Cav News and Commando News are nigh so I'll say so long.

Harry Bell





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Krait's Farewell

A Special Operations 'Vice' found in Trigg in Perth in September 2017 by Jim Truscott
A Never Before Told Story

by

Horrie Young, Ex Leading Telegraphist RAN, MV Krait, Operation Jaywick 1943

October 18, 1943 saw MW Krait tied up to her mentor, USS Chanticleer and her crew eagerly waiting to partake of her ablutions, meals and other comforts. We were kitted out in US Navy clothing from our own navy caps and were starting to feel reasonably normal once more. Lyons and Davidson had departed for Melbourne to deliver their respective official reports while Bob Page flown to NSW to be with his future wife, Roma. Taffy had taken off for Perth to be hospitalised for treatment to his injured ankle.

The remainder of the crew together with Lieut. Ted Carse were placed ashore at Potshot to await further orders. Lieut. Davidson returned after a couple of weeks and advised us that we would be required to sail Krait to Darwin and on arrival handed her over to the Lugger Maintenance Group who were servicing other SRD bases.

On arrival at Darwin we proceeded to unload her stores and on completion took up residence in a camp in a nearby crocodile-infested swamp. We could hear them barking all night long so there were no night visits to the toilet.

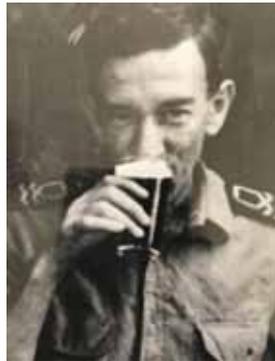
I was one of the last to leave the ship and after Davidson's comment that we could take everything off the ship except her chronometer and her compass cast around for something to remind me of Jaywick. It was at this point I just happened to notice a small vice fitted to the after engine-room hatchway. I chose to remove it as it was no longer required for use by our party and it seemed to be a useful and worthwhile reminder of Operation Jaywick. I have since passed it onto my eldest son Brian who was born on the departure date of Krait's now famous voyage, and so that is how one small vice has survived the rigours of World War II,



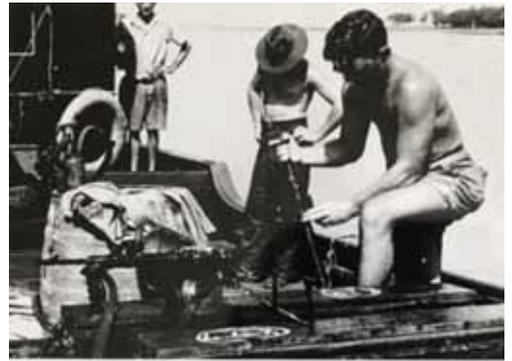
The Special Operations 'Vice' at Brian Young's house at Trigg.



View of operational folboat, 17' 6" long, 2' 6" wide, capacity about 700 lbs, weapons, stores, explosives, limpet magnetic mines.



Lieut Ted Carse, MID, navigator.



Weapons on the deck of the Krait.



photograph of Major Lyons taken a few hours after the conclusion of the attack from a secret hide on Dongas Island about 8 miles from Singapore. Here he is seen observing damage to ships in Singapore Harbour for intelligence purposes.



Poppa Falls about 5 miles from the target area.



Islands very close to Singapore Harbour (10 miles) used by canoeists to launch their attack against Japanese shipping in the harbour.



Left: The Krait approaches Singapore about 17 miles away.



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DOES IT HURT?

The pain differs from person to person and some areas of the body are more sensitive than others. We suggest application of Emla cream to numb the area prior to the treatment.

Individual results may vary.



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THE FORMATION OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA AND THE ROLE OF Z AND M SPECIAL UNITS

The Origins of Special Operations in Australia:

In July 1942, following the fall of Singapore and the occupation of the Far East by Japanese troops, an intelligence organisation was established in Australia to carry out various undercover missions behind enemy lines.

This Special Operations unit, SOE Australia, was an offshoot of a highly secret wartime British unit, Special Operations Executive, or SOE.

SOE was the brainchild of Britain's Directorate of Military Intelligence 6 (MI6), which was established in 1909 as the Secret Service Bureau or SIB in response to a widely held belief that all Germans were spies. In WW2 SOE was created to cause havoc in occupied Europe and was answerable only to Winston Churchill, who instructed its operatives 'to set Europe ablaze'.

In order to maintain security, and not compromise the British organization, SOE Australia was given a cover name – Inter-Allied Services Department (IASD or, more usually, ISD). It had as its nucleus several British secret service agents who had worked for SOE Far East but had managed to escape to Australia before Singapore and the islands of the Dutch East Indies fell to the Japanese.

SOE Australia's lineage (IASD):

SOE Australia was established on 17 April 1942 when Majors Edgerton Mott and Ambrose Trappes-Lomax, of SOE Far East, were given approval to form a special operations group along the lines of the British SOE. Mott, who was also adviser on special operations to Australia's Director of Military Intelligence, Lieutenant-Colonel Caleb Roberts, was appointed Director of the new organization. Overall control was vested in America's General Douglas MacArthur, with Australia's General Blamey in 'immediate control'.

The role of SOE Australia was to be similar to that of SOE in Europe: insert trained operatives into enemy territory to gather intelligence, harass lines of communication, carry out general sabotage, attack shipping and organise local resistance. The cost, estimated by Mott to be 100,000 pounds sterling per annum, would be met every six months by the various Allied governments. Mott also used his persuasive powers, in the interests of security, to convince Blamey to accept the principle that SOE Australia should not only operate without any detailed accountability to other Commonwealth military establishments, but also pay its personnel using SOE Australia's funds.

Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, Mott was ordered by Blamey to immediately set the wheels in motion. It was easier said than done. It was not until 17 May that he was able to obtain suitable office accommodation at 'Airlie', a magnificent mansion at 260 Domain Road in the upmarket Melbourne suburb of South Yarra, allow-

ing him and Trappes-Lomax to move out of their tiny office at Victoria Barracks, organise their staff and recruit suitable operatives for specialized training.



'Airlie', South Yarra

Most of the recruits came from the three Australian services, particularly the Army. After passing initial muster, they were sent to the Guerrilla Warfare School near Foster on Wilsons Promontory in Victoria, established by SOE's Freddie Spencer Chapman in 1941 to train commando-style Independent Companies (also known as Commando Squadrons) and where, by arrangement with the Director of Military Training, SOE Australia had its own section. By June the organisation, known internally by SOE staff in London as 'Force 137', was functioning on a proper basis and planning began to get under way.

There was no problem finding suitable applicants, but the training program at Foster soon ran into problems - security was difficult to police; there were no holding arrangements for operatives awaiting the commencement of the course; and the cold Victorian climate was detrimental to the health of soldiers who had been serving in hot tropical zones.

With Foster's climate proving unsuitable, plans were put in train during June for the establishment of a new training school at 'Fairview House'- a large hickory, kauri and red-cedar mansion, built in 1896 on a hillside estate, Fairview Farm, located on the outskirts of Cairns in far north Queensland. The property, formerly owned by the grandfather of the famous aviator, Charles Kingsford Smith, had already been earmarked by SOE-Australia for use as its wireless relay station.

Known officially as 'Z Experimental Station' or ZES, and colloquially as 'The House on the Hill', the site was ideal, being well away from prying eyes, particularly as many of the civilians had been evacuated further south. No reason was given for the choice of name, Z Experimental Station, but it seems likely that it was



inspired by MI6's long-serving Lieutenant-Colonel Dansey, whose code name was Colonel Z, and who had established an undercover group known as Z Organization. General Blamey's signals, prefixed by a Z, ensured immediate attention.



Z Experimental Station

To provide a cover unit for civilians and to provide a holding unit for the large number of Australian army personnel recruited from the AIF, an administrative/holding body, which had an independent procurement authority, was created. In keeping with the already established Z theme, it was known as Z Special Unit. Only Australian army personnel were posted to this holding unit. All non-Australian personnel and all RAN and RAAF recruits, being much fewer in number, remained under the administrative control of their parent bodies. The same applied to overseas personnel.

Despite its swashbuckling and theatrical title, Z Special Unit was purely administrative: it had no war establishment, no war equipment table, no insignia and no colour patch. Being non-operational, it could not plan or carry out missions in its own right. However, the carte blanche procurement authority made it extremely useful, allowing it to draw whatever was required from ordnance stores and giving it a unique role in the Australian Army.

In July 1942 things were just becoming organized at SOE-Australia's HQ, when MacArthur's General Headquarters dropped a bombshell. To keep a tight rein on what the Americans considered to be the sometimes maverick tendencies of the Dutch and British agencies, and also believing, quite rightly, that the British and Dutch were more interested in regaining their colonial empires than furthering MacArthur's plans to retake the Philippines, GHQ issued a directive: all existing and newly established Allied covert agencies were to be amalgamated and placed under the control of the Allied Intelligence Bureau or AIB.

This included the Royal Australian Navy's highly successful Coastwatchers, a propaganda unit known as Far Eastern Liaison Office (FELO), the Secret Intel-

ligence Service (SIS/SIA), a Dutch East Indies intelligence unit (NEFIS), the United States' Philippine Regional Section (PRS, operating in the southern Philippines) and SOE's latest offshoot – SOE Australia.

To Mott's horror, in one fell swoop SOE Australia lost its independence, its specialised funding and control of its exclusive administrative arm, Z Special Unit. Since the other organisations that made up AIB were strapped for cash, had no means of cutting red tape to obtain supplies and equipment, and lacked a holding unit for AIF recruits, SOE Australia's loss was most definitely their gain.

Mott, whose chain of command had been Blamey and then MacArthur, discovered that there was now another level of command - Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, now AIB's Controller. However Roberts, who had a reputation for working at a snail's pace, was controller in name only. His deputy, Colonel Alison Ind, United States Army, was also the Finance Officer. This arrangement gave MacArthur's GHQ indirect control over SOE Australia since, without American approval, any proposed mission 'would die from financial anaemia'.

As large numbers of Australian Army personnel were being recruited to the various diverse and covert organisations controlled by AIB, they too were now 'posted' for security and administrative reasons to the newly acquired Z Special Unit. However, all other recruits (RAN, RAAF and all overseas personnel) remained under the administrative control of their parent organisations.

Reorganisation:

In February 1943 there was a huge re-organisation of AIB. SOE-Australia was dissolved, its Director Colonel Mott was relieved of his post and, for some time, the future of special operations in Australia was in very great doubt.

However, at General Blamey's direction, in April 1943 Special Operations Australia (SOA) was formed. In late May, as a security measure, it was code-named Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD). The term SOA was only to be used at the highest level. Under the restructure, SOA was virtually autonomous and came under the direct control of General Blamey, to whom it was answerable.

To further differentiate SOA personnel from those with other covert units, 'secret numbers' were introduced. The numbers were prefixed by letters to identify the role of the individual at a glance.

- AK: Army/civilian operatives
- AKN: Naval personnel, including operatives
- AKR: Air Force personnel including operatives
- AKS: Signalers
- AKX: headquarters staff
- AKO: Ordnance staff
- AKV: Instructional or camp staff
- AKQ: Female staff



Z Special Unit was not a victim of the shake-up - the fact that it was an extraordinarily useful tool had scotched any suggestion that it too be dissolved. However, instead of remaining with AIB, it was handed to SOA for its exclusive use. To cater for the administrative needs of the Australian soldiers who remained with AIB, another administrative/holding unit was formed - M Special Unit. All AIF personnel who remained with AIB were now transferred from Z's administration to that of M.

Bernard Bastick, a former Coastwatcher recruited from the AIF, was one of those affected by the administrative re-organisation. In 1942 Bastick, unlike his naval coastwatching counterparts, had come under the administrative control of Z Special Unit. In 1943, when SOA appropriated Z Special Unit for its exclusive use, Bastick, along with all AIB's Australian army personnel, was transferred to the administrative control of the newly created M Special Unit.

Confusion reigns:

The switching from Z administration to M was not without its problems.

In 1942 Sergeant Leonard Siffleet, an Australian army signaler, was inserted into Dutch New Guinea on an AIB (NEFIS) mission, code-named Whiting. Initially he was under the administrative control of Z Special Unit but, in May 1943, following the reorganization, administrative responsibility for Siffleet automatically shifted to M Special Unit.

This was straightforward enough until Siffleet disappeared in September 1943, generating a flurry of paperwork as Z and M Units tried to establish who was responsible for his pay and when. It was later established that the unfortunate Siffleet had been captured and beheaded at Aitappe, in October 1943.



This graphic photo of Siffleet's execution was found on the body of a dead Japanese.

The fact that Z Special Unit administered only to the Australian army component of SOA also created a few hiccups closer to home. Although the unit had been formed to reduce administrative difficulties, a demarcation dispute arose in late 1943 when sailors arrived at SOA's brand new training school at Fraser Island, Queensland. Being RAN, they did not come under Z Special Unit's jurisdiction, which only handled the pay of Australian army recruits. Consequently, the seamen went unpaid for several weeks while the matter was resolved.

Myths and Misconceptions:

The creation of Z and M Special Units, coupled with secrecy surrounding SOA, whose personnel were briefed on a strictly 'need to know' basis, has led to many long-standing and enduring misconceptions about the roles of the two administrative bodies - so much so that they have acquired the status of the operational organisations to which they actually administered.

Entries such as 'posted to Z Special Unit/ transferred to M Special Unit', recorded on army service dossiers in the interests of protecting the identities of SOA or the covert units under the AIB umbrella, have compounded the problem: most people believe that Z and M Special Units were alternate names for SOA and AIB, or were separate, elite commando forces within those organisations. To further confuse the issue, the headstones of AIF personnel, killed in action while carrying out covert missions with SOA or AIB, have been inscribed as serving with 'Z Special Unit' or 'M Special Unit' - their administrative and holding bodies. As personnel recruited to SOA and AIB always remained on the war establishment of their parent unit, the correct inscription should be, for example, '2/3 Pioneer Battalion, KIA while serving with Special Operations Australia'.

Since 1975, a large file entitled the *History of Special Operations Australia - Organisation*, which records in detail the establishment of SOA, has been available to any member of the public who cared to visit Australian Archives in Canberra. In more recent years this material has been digitised and is on line. Despite this easily accessible information, many people, including professional military historians, not only elevate Z and M Special Units to 'operational' status, they also constantly refer to these purely administrative bodies as Z and M **Forces**.

Both names are complete misnomers.

The term 'force' seems to have its roots in Western Australia where a former member of SOA's Instructional and Camp staff, Major Colin Ednie-Brown, formed an ex-service association in 1946.

Unaware that the real name of the organisation he had served in was Special Operations Australia, and believing that 'Z Special Unit', or any mention of 'Z' was highly secret - too secret a name to be used - Ednie-



Brown's fledgling organisation in WA referred to itself, correctly, as Services Reconnaissance Department, or SRD Association. This terminology was also adopted by a sister organisation in NSW, formed the following year.

The secrecy surrounding SOA was such that members of the West Australian SRD Association believed that Z Special Unit was actually the parent organisation, subdivided into SRD, AIB, M Special Unit, FELO and NEFIS. For Anzac Day 1949, this 'information' was distributed to the press.

The SRD Association in WA was responsible, however, for erecting possibly the only correctly named special operations' memorial in Australia - The Services Reconnaissance Department Memorial on Garden Island, south of Perth. Overlooking Careening Bay and SOA's wartime maritime training camp, the memorial lists the names of those who died while carrying out SOA/SRD missions, along with Len Siffleet, who was actually attached to AIB.



The SRD Memorial at Garden Island WA

The publicity surrounding the unveiling led to the publication of more erroneous information and claims, including several attributed to Jack Sue, who was said to have loaded rice on Japanese warships while dressed as a coolie and that his SOA party, after observing POWs in their camps and toiling through the jungle on one of the infamous 'death marches', had snatched Australian POWs from the column and taken them to safety. Neither of these claims is correct.

After Ednie-Brown's death, leadership issues arose and membership of the SRD Association dwindled, so

much so that it was down to 23 members in 1974 when Keith Scarff, who had also served with SOA's Instructional and Camp staff, broke away and formed his own organization. He called it 'Z Special Force Australia' and invited Jack Wong Sue, another disaffected member of the original association, to become Chairman of the new organisation. Z Special Force Australia adopted as its emblem a stylized commando dagger through a Z, and also issued badges to members featuring a gold or silver Z. Other state organisations adopted a similar logo to WA, based on the traditional commando knife.



*WA's Z Force Association
Australia symbol*



*Z Special Unit Association
Victoria*

As no WW2 covert organisations, including SOA and its Z Special administrative unit, had any wartime colour patch or insignia, these dagger and Z emblems are purely post-war, ex-service affectations.

Z Force was a catchy title and it was not long before the WA members who joined the new organisation were referring to themselves as 'Z Men'. The term Z Force was also picked up and embraced by others, including the president of Z Special Unit Association NSW - an imposter who claimed to have served with SOA. During his 10 years of misrule, 'Z Force' was popularised and gained credence. Although, in the 1960s the names 'Z Special Force' and 'SRD' were dropped in favour of 'Z Special Unit Association' by the various State groups, 'Z Force' had entered the public arena and was here to stay.

More than seventy years on, with the proliferation of countless websites dealing with covert missions, confusion about the roles of Z and M Special Units is far greater than in wartime. Much of the erroneous material appearing on them is due to a failure to carry out basic research and the reliance on 'information' distributed or promoted by 'Z' ex-service organisations. It was only in 2016 that the Australian War Memorial gave an undertaking to correct misleading information displayed in the Museum's galleries. Other errors cannot be so readily fixed, especially those set in bronze or stone. For example, a handsome bronze plaque at 'Airlie', SOA's wartime headquarters, donated by Z Special Unit Association Victoria and featuring the Z and dagger, states:

"During World War II 'Airlie' was headquarters for Special Operations Australia, also known as 'Z' Special



Unit”.

Yet another bronze plaque, unveiled in Canberra in August 2016, is dedicated to ‘Z Special Unit of Special Operations Australia’, reinforcing the impression that Z Special Unit was an operational unit within SOA. According to the plaque, ‘personnel from this unit [Z] were involved in more than 80 operations in Asia and the Pacific 1942-1945’, a claim that effectively ignores the contribution made by all of SOA’s RAN, RAAF and non-Australian personnel, who had no connection to Z Special Unit.

The Z and dagger, invented in the 1970s and appearing in various forms on countless plaques, badges and ‘wartime’ memorabilia, have become synonymous with SOA missions, along with flags and banners featuring a free-flowing Z, in the style of the 1960s TV hero, Zorro - a masked swordsman who slashed his trademark initial at every opportunity.



Zorro-style insignia



Zorro the swordsman



The Zorro-style insignia on a memorial at Hervey Bay, Queensland.

The Z and dagger are such powerful images, and the misinformation surrounding Z Special Unit so distorted, that ex-members of the various WW2 Independent Companies/Commando Squadrons have been seduced into thinking that they are connected in some way to the so-called ‘wartime commando units, Z and M Special’.

Consequently, some Independent (Commando) Company Associations have added a Z and M to their unit’s Double Diamond colour patch insignias. As Z and M Special Units were non-combatant, administrative organisations, there is no connection whatsoever between the commandos of the Independent Companies and people who served with SOA/AIB, apart from the fact that, in the very early days, SOE Australia had used the same training facility on Wilson’s Promontory.



Commando Association banner, with M and Z in the double diamond, surrounded by authentic Independent Company colour patches.

The Independent Companies were true commando-style outfits, trained to carry out hit-and-run missions, in the style of the original Commandos – the Boers of South Africa. After the 1943 re-organisation, the role of SOA and AIB operatives was primarily intelligence gathering. Although sabotage was the objective for three SOA missions in 1944-45, and parties in Borneo organized native guerrilla bands to harass the enemy in 1945, SOA’s brief was not to engage the enemy unless absolutely unavoidable. To this end, SOA operatives were well-schooled in the art of silent killing, but only if absolutely necessary: the aim was to collect intelligence from behind enemy lines - and live to tell the tale.

The status of Operation Jaywick:

Due to general ignorance and the reliance placed on Internet sites, misinformation in regard to Z and M Special Units continues to gain credence. Consequently, it is very easy for members of the public, including prominent officials and historians, to be misled, especially when a ‘well-known’ story, such as Operation Jaywick, is constantly recycled as a ‘Z Special’ operation.

This successful raid on shipping in Singapore Harbour in 1943, using a captured Japanese fishing



boat renamed *Krait*, has long been promoted as an SOA/'Z Special/Z Force' mission.

However, Jaywick was, and always has been, an SOE/RAN mission: funded directly by SOE in London and carried out with the co-operation and assistance of the RAN, at the direction of the Director of Naval Intelligence, Commander R M Long, who had established the Coastwatchers and was able to appreciate Jaywick's potential. Neither the Australian Army nor the United States military would touch it. This is why the Australians assigned to Jaywick were all originally naval personnel.



Some of the raiding party, and ship's crew, on board *Krait* prior to the mission.

By the time the party left Australia in August 1943, after suffering a long delay due to engine problems with *Krait*, SOA had been established, leading to the erroneous assumption that Jaywick was an SOA operation. However, files in Australia and Britain confirm that credit for the actual raid, the only special operations-type mission in Australia to successfully carry out its objective without any casualties, belongs to SOE Australia. SOE in the UK not only sanctioned the plan in May 1942, it also controlled the operation and supplied a never-ending stream of funds to finance the entire operation through a secret bank account at the Kings Cross branch of the Bank of NSW.

This financial independence enabled the party leader, Ivan Lyon (a secret agent previously attached to MI6 and SOE Far East in Singapore), the luxury of maintaining his headquarters in a secret RAN flat in Sydney's Potts Point, employing a highly paid civilian on what was a military mission, and establishing 'Camp X', a one-off, very exclusive and very expensive training camp at Refuge Bay, to the north of Sydney. This was used for training from September 1942 until January 1943.

Other Popular Jaywick Myths:

It is also claimed repeatedly that Operation Jaywick 'blew up and sank' seven enemy merchant vessels, destroying an estimated 37,000 tons of shipping. Magnetic limpet mines were attached to seven vessels by the raiders, but it appears that the explosives on one vessel did not detonate.



Jaywick's Camp X, Refuge Bay, on Broken Bay to the north of Sydney.

Several Japanese signals, intercepted and decoded by United States intelligence, revealed that six ships were damaged in Singapore Harbour in the early morning of 27 September 1943, when holes about two metres wide, running from engine room to stern along the waterline, were blown in the sides of the targeted vessels. However, the effect on the Japanese war machine was minimal and within days all but two of the ships were salvaged and put back into service.



Hakusan Maru, one of the two ships attacked by Jaywick and not returned to service.

That six ships (of the seven targeted) were damaged and two remained sunk was placed on the public record in 1949 by the Royal Australian Navy, and in 1950 by WA's SRD Association, which reported that, 'as we all know', two ships (*Hakusan Maru* and *Kizan Maru*) remained sunk, while four others, including *Nasusan Maru*, a converted tanker, were soon returned to service. *Nasusan Maru* was later torpedoed by the United States submarine *Tang* in the Koshiki Straits, 40 miles south-west of Nagasaki, on 24 June 1944, killing eleven crew.

However, in the general hype about the Jaywick raid, the names of the three ships recorded above became lost. Although in recent years concerted attempts have been made to name all seven ships, the only additional ship that can be positively named is *Arare Maru*, a former Dutch tanker named *Paula*. According to Japanese records, this vessel was mined and sunk in Singapore on 27 September 1943.

Work undertaken by researcher Peter Cundall has revealed that it is possible that two of the four remaining craft are *Shosei Maru*, formerly *Solen*, a British oil tanker, which was under repair in Singapore



for five weeks following the Jaywick attack, and *Nichiren Maru*, a cargo vessel, also in port from 20 September to 11 November 1943. The seventh ship, on which the limpets are believed to have failed to explode, was 'identified' by Jaywick's Donald Davidson as *Taisho Maru*, but this vessel was in Japan at the time. There were two or three ships in Singapore that could qualify as the 7th ship, but the evidence is insufficient to nominate any particular one. Based on the available information, the total tonnage of the sunk or damaged ships was just under 26,000 tons, not 37,000 tons destroyed or sunk, as is so often claimed.

With only two ships put out of action permanently, the impact on the Japanese was not great in the military sense. However, this was of secondary importance, as the primary aim of the raid had always been one of propaganda: to penetrate enemy waters, carry out an attack and show the world that the Japanese were not invincible.

It did not matter what was attacked, as long as an attack took place.

Once the raiders were safely home, their mission complete, the news of their triumph was to be trumpeted to the world, causing panic and humiliation among the Japanese and raising the spirits of the Allied nations at a time when morale was at a low ebb. This didn't happen. When intercepted Japanese signals revealed that the Japanese believed saboteurs in Singapore were responsible, there was an immediate and absolute security clamp down. Jaywick remained a tightly guarded secret until after the war.

However, this indisputable fact has not stopped people, some of them prominent, from claiming that Jaywick's real success was as a morale booster.

Jaywick's propaganda value was never exploited. Neither the enemy nor the general public had any idea that a small band of men had pulled off the seemingly impossible. The only celebration held was among themselves.



The six Jaywick saboteurs, safely home, toast their success in secret.

(L to R) Wally Falls, Donald Davidson, Andrew Huston, Ivan Lyon, Arthur Jones, Bob Page.

When the top brass at SOA discovered from intercepted enemy signals that subversive elements in

Singapore were being blamed for the attack, the order to keep the raid a secret resulted in an appalling purge of the civilian population by the Japanese kempei-tai (military police). This reign of terror, known as the Double Tenth Massacre, began on 10 October 1943. It lasted for months and took the lives of many innocent Singaporeans, whose severed heads were displayed on poles in order to intimidate the culprits into confessing. Of the 46 European internees dragged in for questioning, sixteen did not survive.

The failure to capitalize on Jaywick's propaganda potential reduced this brilliantly planned and executed mission, carried out by a daring and intrepid band, to a side-show with tragic consequences.

Other claims made about Jaywick are also myths. The story that Lyon conducted the Jaywick and Rimau raids in an attempt to rescue his wife from Singapore (she was evacuated to Australia but when sailing to India the ship was intercepted. She became an internee in Japan – Lyon knew all this); that Lyon recklessly ordered a wireless signal to be transmitted when in range of enemy planes when returning from the Jaywick mission (the signal was unauthorized and sent without his permission); and that the widow of Rimau's Bob Page was so heartbroken by his death that she never married (she married in 1950 and remained married until her husband's death in 1976).

Another oft-repeated claim is that SOA was the forerunner of the SAS.

In 1942 the British SAS was formed in North Africa as a completely separate entity from SOE to carry out commando style raids behind enemy lines. The closest Australian wartime equivalent to the SAS was the Independent or Commando Squadrons. These units, along with SOE and SOA, ceased to exist when hostilities ended in 1945. The Australian SAS was formed in 1957. It was modeled on the British SAS and shares the same motto, 'Who Dares Wins'.

The Recorded History

Information on Jaywick and all SOA missions is held in wartime files, along with a mass of paperwork explaining the establishment and organization of both SOE Australia and SOA, and detailing all missions planned or carried out. The successes, the disasters, the bungles and the mismanagement are recorded there for posterity. The roles of Z and M Special Units are also clearly defined as being holding/administrative units for the Australian army component of SOA and AIB. No more, and no less.

Members of the public who seek information on wartime missions and personnel under 'Z Special Unit', and find nothing, usually assume that the files are too secret to be released. A search under the correct name 'Special Operations Australia or SOA' will reveal the falsity of this assumption. All SOA files have been available to the public since 1975, the year that the thirty-year restriction was lifted. Also, on that date, all personnel who had sworn an oath under the Official



Secrets' Act were automatically released from that undertaking. The misconception that the oath was for life has facilitated several people to make fraudulent claims about war service with SOA.

There is no doubting the bravery and commitment of SOA personnel who served behind enemy lines, especially those who lost their lives in the cause. However, in the last seven decades the misinformation and hype circulated in the public arena has been considerable, despite hundreds of archival files being readily available, many of them on-line.

The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History, compiled by Australian Army historians, was collated from material held in these archival files. The following extract, indexed under 'Special Operations Australia', not only sets the record straight in regard to the terminology, it also puts the activities of SOA into perspective: an assessment that some, who are unfamiliar with the contents of the archival material, might regard as harsh.

AIF personnel attached to ISD were administered by Z Special Unit.

In February 1943 ISD was disbanded and replaced by SOA which, under the cover-name of the Services Reconnaissance Department, conducted operations from that date until the end of the war . . .

Despite the glamour attached to special operations, it cannot be said that SOA missions achieved anything of significance . . .

In the final analysis SOA operations were characterized by inefficiency, inappropriate objectives and unreliability. They did not greatly hamper the enemy and did not shorten the war by a single day.

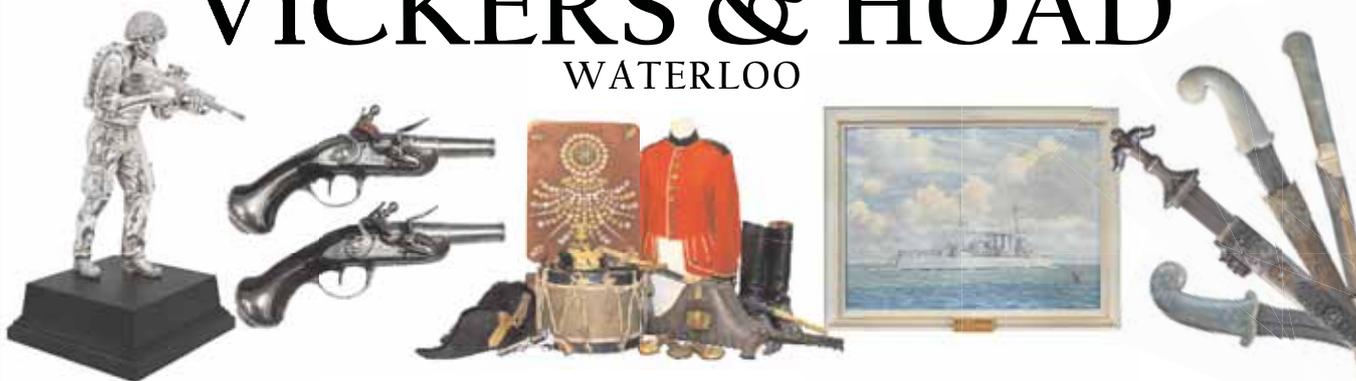
As Ivan Lyon once famously said "War is a very grim business, isn't it."

Information on the structure and activities of SOA is also available in files held at National Archives of Australia and in Lynette Silver's book, *Deadly Secrets*. For a detailed analysis of ships in port at the time of the Jaywick attack, see the article by Peter Cundall on <http://www.combinedfleet.com/>



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L:R - Alvaro Carvajal, Mark Donaldson, Matt Graham, Jason Semple, Daniel Keighran, Mark Foote

Governor-General of Australia on 1 November 2012.

Mark Donaldson, VC

On 2 September 2008, during the conduct of a fighting patrol, (then) Trooper Donaldson was travelling in a combined Afghan, US and Australian vehicle convoy engaged by a numerically superior, entrenched and coordinated enemy ambush. For his actions on this day, Trooper Donaldson was subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia.

On 16 January 2009, (then) Trooper Donaldson was invested with the Victoria Cross for Australia by the Governor-General, becoming the first Australian to receive the award since the Vietnam War.

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Daniel Keighran, VC

On 24 August 2010 his patrol was under fire by a numerically superior insurgent force. After receiving a friendly casualty, and with complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Dan Keighran acted on his own initiative to take decisive action to turn the tide of battle. This decision would see him repeatedly risk his life by drawing enemy fire to himself and away from the rest of the members of his patrol who were treating the casualty.

Dan's actions ultimately enabled the identification and suppression of enemy firing positions by both Australian and Afghan fire support elements and were instrumental in permitting the withdrawal of the combined Australian and Afghan patrol with no further casualties. For his actions, he was invested with the Victoria Cross for Australia by Her Excellency the

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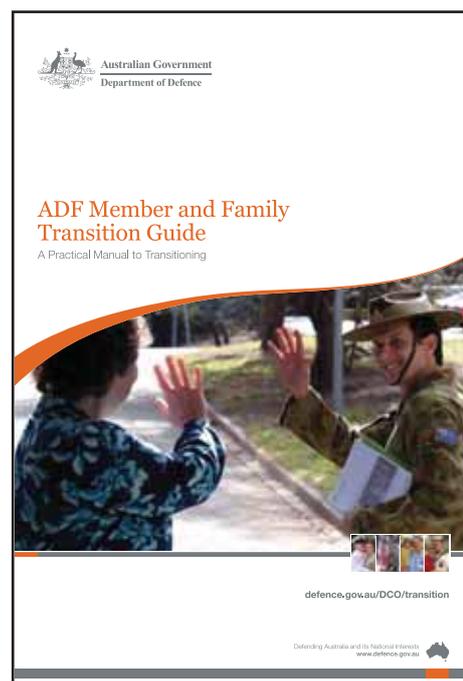
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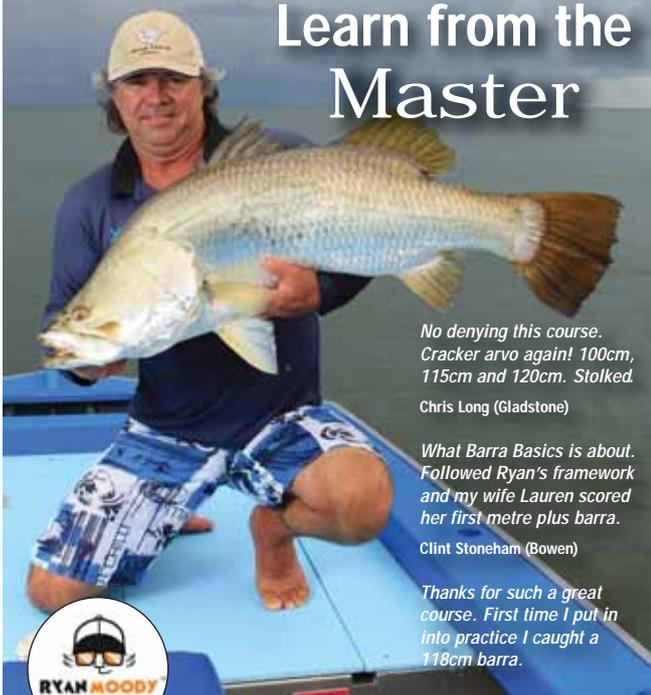
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President's Shield Yarra Valley Pistol Club

ACA Vic had 20 members shooting at this year's shoot and ASASA had 3, but unfortunately their 3 members managed an average score better than the average from our 14 shooters. That's the way the cookie crumbles.

Sunday, 15th October. The weather for the day was superb, the sun was shining and the birds were singing, no doubt knowing that they were not being aimed at.

The Yarra Valley Pistol Club has had an injection of well over a million dollars into the Club and it showed, what with new pathways, upgraded ranges, and generally a makeover to make it one of the best, if not the best club in Victoria. It's a credit to its committee.

Keith Hughes was responsible for the day's shoot as well as the scoring. It was good to see a few young ones experiencing a shoot for the first time, and obviously enjoying it. The instruction was as usual, excellent, and the hospitality shown to us by the Club's members was warm and friendly.

Hope to see more ACA Vic Marksman to win back the shield for us next year.

Dick Pelling



Picture Shows ASASA member Ash Murphy receiving the President shield from Keith Hughes.



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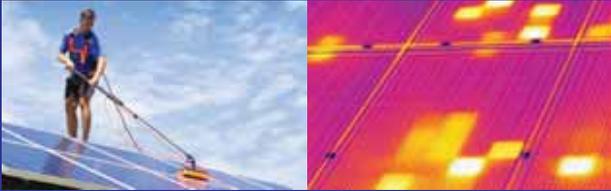



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A World War 2 Japanese Sword

By Richard Pelling, ACA Victoria



Before restoration: Jack's Japanese sword and some of the ammunition rounds.

Scores of swords were brought back to Australia by returning servicemen after WW2. The following segment is about one that arrived from PNG on board the HMS *Implacable* at the end of the war.

Jack Johanesen, a WW2 2/7th Cavalry Commando veteran, has been in failing health and ACA Victoria members Glenn MacDonald, Keith Johnston (WW2 2/10th Cav Cdo) and I paid Jack a visit. Jack asked us if we would like a couple of items for the ACA Victoria historical collection.

Jack's items included a bag of ammunition of various calibres, and a military sword. Jack recalled to us how it came into his possession, and I share the story with you and ask you to use some imagination regarding the relief that the troops were feeling during their journey home after such a dirty war.

Jack later did an oral history interview with an AWM historian: "So when the time came to leave Wewak in PNG, it was on the British aircraft carrier HMS *Implacable* which had arrived at Wewak. With approximately two thousand troops we sailed south. It was a magnificent experience. The ship was so immense to us, thirty-two thousand ton and of course with the flight deck and everything it was huge. You didn't feel any waves or anything."

"The British soldiers, some marines and the sailors on board, treated us very well. And so it was altogether a very happy time coming home. We sailed south to Sydney. Coming through Sydney Heads I will always remember the Royal Marine Band marching up and down on the flight deck, and there were masses of people lined up along the Heads - it was a very nice homecoming."

Jack said that during the trip the Aussie soldiers discussed how well the sailors treated them and wanted to show their appreciation. A suggestion was to hold a raffle with the proceeds to be handed over to the crew, and one of the troops generously offered a

Samurai sword for the prize. The raffle was run, and Jack was the lucky recipient. The proceeds of the raffle were handed over to the crew as thanks, and the sword remained stored in Jack's shed for over 70 years.

ACA committee member Richard Godden carefully restored the sword close to its former condition. I leave to your imagination the life of this sword before it arrived in Australia. The hilt is inscribed with the usual Japanese markings that need to be researched to discover its year of construction and its maker. This is not as easy as it sounds.



After restoration



The Great Keppel Island Hideaway

A great place for R&R

As publisher of the *Commando News* it was time for a holiday from the hustle and bustle of publishing. Also my daughter, Joy, needed a well-earned break from her 3 businesses in Sydney so we took up the generous offer from the Great Keppel Hideaway and ventured out to the shores of the Great Keppel Island which is renowned for safe swimming and accessibility healthy coral reefs.

Great Keppel Island is situated just off the coast of Yeppoon in Queensland. It's a tropical island paradise which has flavours of being a cast-away yet so near civilisation, being a short ferry ride from Yeppoon.

Our experience was after stepping ashore on the beautiful white sands of the island we were greeted by swaying palms trees and a friendly reception from the staff of the Great Keppel Island Hideaway.

Immediately we headed for the bar for refreshments

enjoying a glass of Angoves, chardonnay pinot noir and an ice cold beer whilst overlooking the other islands surrounded by the crystal turquoise waters the tropic of Capricorn has to offer. Little did we know Great Keppel Island is the native home of the Woppabura tribe, 'Woppaburra' meaning 'resting place' and from our experience holidaying in this beautiful part of the southern Great Barrier Reef, Woppaburra compliments its surroundings.

If you're looking for a destination where you can rest and recuperate we highly recommend this beautiful part of Australia.

Whilst making our way through the scenic board walk to our beach front cabin which was fully equipped with the essentials. We decided to dine in GKI Hideaways very own bar and bistro.

We were very impressed with the service and



generous meal portions. We thoroughly enjoyed the tropical Balinese layout which adds value to our experience of being on a tropical island.

In the morning, we woke up with the gentle sounds of the waves lapping the beach. Immediately we headed towards the crystal clear waters for a morning swim followed by a nice stroll through the tropical walkways admiring the foliage of hibiscus, coconut trees and tropical ferns making our way back to the restaurant for breakfast.

After breakfast we decided to take a tour on a boat made with a glass bottom window for viewing. We cruised over numerous coral reefs to view the most beautiful fish we've ever seen. Of varied species which are native to the Southern Great Barrier including parrot fish, bat fish, clown fish, grouper and many more, fortunately it was a sunny day which gave us opportunity to view the variety of colours of different corals which are also native to the reef.

Upon returning we decided to take a delightful stroll through the tropic forest on our way back to our beachfront cabin which we had a well-earned rest before going to dinner.

Dinner at the GKI bar & bistro was absolutely delightful. I had a beautiful dish of 'pasta caprice' concoction of smoked salmon, broccoli & macadamia nuts, pan-fried with garlic sauce. My daughter Joy chose the Atlantic grilled salmon complimented with sweet potato mash & Asian greens. Both meals were quite substantial and flavoursome. What made it enjoyable was dining under the cabana overlooking the water giving us beautiful views with a mixture of sensational colours of pinks and purples as the sunsets across the ocean.

After waking up the next morning we decided to

stroll through the lush tropical gardens the island has to offer admiring the variety of bird wildlife making our way for breakfast at GKI restaurant. I had the savoury mince and scrambled eggs and Joy decided to have the continental breakfast which consists of a variety of tropical fruits and yogurts with a choice of cereal.

We then headed to the GKI Adventures shed where guests can hire water sports equipment ranging from jet skis, kayaks, snorkels, wakeboarding, knee boarding plus many more. We decided to play it safe so we took the offer of hiring the snorkelling equipment for the day then made our way to Monkey Beach, where we discovered corals, and variety of tropical fish and sea cucumbers. Joy managed to see a number of small stingrays whilst snorkelling in the warm waters along the rocky edge of monkey beach.

After drying off from our snorkelling adventure we made our way back to our cabin to rest and get ready for dinner then headed for the GKI restaurant. I had the salmon dish again and Joy had a beautiful prawn dish which was excellent, then retired for the night.

The next day was a classic as I had read my flight back to Brisbane wrong and the only way we could get back on time to make my flight was to ask the GKI Hideaway team for a way back so I could get my connecting flight so they came up with the idea of jet skis.

So off we went luggage and all both Joy and I flying across the water on the back of jet skis back to Rosslyn Bay and met by little Jonnies transport which was lined up by Amie at GKI Adventures and made the flight on time.

In summing up the Great Keppel Island Hideaway both Joy and myself had a wonderful time and would recommend the Great Keppel Island Hideaway to anyone.



TREKKING KOKODA WITH TEAM 6 AND MY BROTHER

By Karen Chapman



Karen and Ben did it!

A life-shattering event led me to the Kokoda Track and drove me all the way to the finish line. My youngest brother, Ben, an ADF member, died by suicide in September 2016. I was completely and utterly devastated.

I wanted to find a way to try and make it count for something; to let others know there were alternatives, and for our ADF brothers and sisters that there was support.

I had a flashback to 2009 – I had completed the Inca Trail and Kokoda came up in discussion. Ben said: “We should do it together one day.” I thought, we won’t ever do it together now, but I can do it, for you, for others, and I wanted to support a charity who supported our service people.



Karen in training



Karen at Brigade Hill

A time for action

I had heard great things about Back Track Adventures, so I booked and registered a fundraising page with *Soldier On*. It was real, I was all in. The Sunday morning training that was ‘informally’ organised was amazing. I met others from my trek and my confidence grew.

As the time got closer to the trek I had a lot of self-doubt. Would I really be able to do the trek? If I couldn’t I’d be letting down myself, my brother, and everyone who had donated.

It begins

The time had come.

Team 6 left from Ower’s Corner on 20 April. The bond that you create while you are pushing yourself to the limit is incredible; the mud, the tree roots, the steep steps ... every step was a mental battle. I just kept putting one foot in front of the other. My left foot was Ben, my right foot was Kaz – we were doing this together, but he could never be ‘right’.

Kokoda is both beautiful and brutal all at once and it was the most incredible experience.

RIP brother – thank you for your service. We did it.

The team at Back Track Adventures offer their sincere condolences to Karen on the loss of her brother, Ben. We were very proud to be part of Karen’s journey.



Karen (in front) and Team 6 on the Kokoda Track

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOKODA DAY

By Brian Dunbar

On Friday 3 November 2017, 300 to 400 people gathered at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, Concord, for a thanksgiving service to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the defeat of the Japanese by the Australian troops in New Guinea in 1942. Amongst those present were 9 Commando Association members.

It was a well organised & moving ceremony. The Knox Grammar School's pipes and drums band led the veterans, who were honoured and paraded in vintage jeeps. The veterans were accompanied by nurses from Concord Hospital dressed in WW2 nurses' uniforms. A catafalque party was mounted at the main memorial. Many Australian & Papua New Guinea representatives laid wreaths at a number of memorials along the walkway. These included some veterans who took an active part in that campaign in 1942. Members of the Association, Reg Davis (2/9

Commando Squadron), Ken "Bluie" Curran (2/11 Commando Squadron), & Phil McNamara all laid wreaths.

Lt Col Kimberlea Juchniewicz gave an excellent address. Two chaplains lead the religious section. A group of Papua New Guinea dancers and choir "Koasties" performed. A group of students from Rosebank College, who had walked the Kokoda Track in PNG, addressed the gathering.

Brigadier Phil McNamara closed the service with a vote of thanks, for all those who attended and those who assisted with the organisation to make the day such a success. The service closed with both the PNG and Australian national anthems.

The Concord Hospital provided an excellent afternoon tea, with two large appropriately iced cakes, which were officially cut by some of the veterans.



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18 - 20 AUGUST	Shotgun	Darwin Cup Darwin, NT
7 - 10 SEPT	ISSF & IPC Rifle	Adelaide Cup Wingfield, SA
29 SEPT - 2 OCT	ISSF & IPC Pistol	PSQ ISSF State Champs Belmont, QLD
29 SEPT - 2 OCT	ISSF & IPC Rifle	QTS ISSF State Champs Belmont, QLD
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VETERANS HEALTH WEEK 2017

REPORT BY PROJECT STAY AFLOAT Inc.

Veterans Health Week (VHW) 2017 focussed on 'physical activity'. One event conducted was – kayaking.

The kayak event was conducted by Project Stay Afloat Inc. at Jack Evans Boat Harbour, Tweed Heads-Coolangatta. Members from the Australian Commando Association also participated in the fun. The oldest paddler being a former 1 Cdo Coy member, John Butler, who is 82 years young.

Due to inclement weather on the day, the military wet weather programme was activated, in other words – *Everyone got wet.*

Project Stay Afloat Inc. is a not for profit organisation that aims to encourage people to participate in paddle sport activities for the betterment of their physical and mental health. Many in our community are affected by PTS, depression and anxiety. The core volunteers in Stay Afloat are drawn from former and current Defence personnel, Police, Ambulance, Fire Department, Critical Care nursing and community volunteers.

This VHW event drew a broad range of ages from 30 to 82 years. Our participants attended this event knowing that we had their safety, privacy and confidentiality at the fore front of our minds.

This year's theme for VHW was physical activity and this activity was aimed at bringing participants together in a social and supportive environment. Participants were mainly drawn from the veteran and former Australian Defence Force community and their families. Younger, indigenous and homeless veterans were encouraged to attend and participate at a level suitable to their circumstances.

Our qualified volunteer kayaking instructor and assistants delivered initial kayak water skills training followed by safety and trip briefs before heading out for a 6 km paddle on the Tweed River and Terranora Broadwater. The unrelenting wind and rain was no deterrent and most participants took the opportunity to join us for another 6 km paddle along the Brunswick River the following day.

Participants discovered "that they were not alone" and had the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and connect in a challenging, non-threatening, way with each other.

Stay Afloat is a not for profit paddle club (affiliated with Paddle NSW) and a member of Australian Canoeing.



The Positive Relationship between Physical Activity and PTSD

Exercise has a positive clinical effect on depressive symptoms and may be as effective as psychological or pharmaceutical therapies for some individuals with PTSD. Rosebaum et al, 2014 suggests Physical activity/exercise is a highly effective method in reducing symptoms of depression and for people experiencing other mental health disorders.

Evidence demonstrates that an appropriate exercise intervention can achieve significant benefits to symptoms, depression, anxiety and stress, changes in body shape and sedentary time associated with PTSD, and non-significant trends for sleep quality improvement according to Rosenbaum, 2013.

The associated symptoms and the improvements may be related to psychosocial benefits of the intervention, rather than functional capacity, but there is also a strong empirical (observational) link between improvements in functional capacity and psychological status according to the author, 2016.

People with PTSD are four times as likely to have type 2 diabetes (Lukashek et al, 2013) and rates of overweight and obesity are as high as 92%. To add to these statistics, sufferers of PTSD are shown to be less physically active due to a number of factors including pain, dysfunctional and general lack of desire or both, according to Boscarino et al, 2004.

Adding some form of regular physical activity can have a significant effect on a sufferer of PTSD. It's important to note, the type of activity doesn't matter, what matters is that the person is moving and also having fun doing it. If you would like to become physically active again and help to combat some of your PTSD related symptoms then please consult your GP and discuss your options for referral to another health care professional (exercise physiologist or physiotherapist) for help with your other associated or co-morbid conditions ie lower back pain, arthritis and or obesity.



#1 Thing ADF Candidates Do to Block Their Own Career Transition

By Next Job Now, ADF Career Transition Experts – 1300 112 114

...When it comes to job interviews, Navy, Army and Air Force candidates just don't see shades of grey. Ask any of the thousands of Defence members I've coached over the years and you'll almost always get the same response.

The answer to one simple question is a major reason why military professionals struggle to transition quickly and effectively.

So here's the 64,000 dollar question...

'Do you have **EXPOSURE** to....(DESIRED SKILL)?'

When we hear that little gem of a question our military training kicks into gear. In fact, the preferred answer to this common question is:

'Oh no... **I couldn't claim to be an EXPERT** in that...I'd be lying.'

After so long collecting the Queen's coin and working in an environment where integrity is paramount...**we self-impose a rule** that we need to be considered a Subject Matter Expert before we can stake a claim to even having 'exposure'.

Civilians aren't normally burdened by any such impediment: You can almost picture the worst offenders sitting across from the interviewer explaining, *'I've got a friend who knows someone that can spell that word...so I've had some exposure.'* Sure, I'm exaggerating...but not by much if the latest research into resume fraud is to be believed.

So, we have two groups of candidates (military and civilian), each at different ends of the spectrum (black and white). The big question now is **'How do we get ADF folks to start seeing shades of gray and move them closer toward the other end of the spectrum whilst still holding true to their values.'**



Think about the reality of the situation. Even a soldier who graduated Kapooka yesterday has exposure to leading teams, since they can't graduate without being assessed as a supervisor even for a short period. So rather than say *'I'm not a supervisor'* that sailor could say *'I've had some exposure to supervising teams in a training environment for specific work activities.'*

Similarly, a Sergeant might be slow to claim expertise in human resources (perhaps due to an ADF understanding of what a civilian views as HR) but when prompted they typically agree that they have **exposure** to specific HR skillsets such as coaching, mentoring, training, counselling and leadership development.

At the end of the day saying that *'I've had some exposure to XYZ'* could be validated by the fact that you've seen it done, maybe assisted once, and can read the policy if needed.

Opportunity helps those that help themselves

If you want to give your Defence transition the best possible chance of success, then you need to start seeing shades of grey. 'Exposure' is your new best friend.

Stop being your own worst enemy. Never claim what you don't have, but always claim what you do have...to the degree that you have it!

David Penman is a Certified Professional Resume Writer, ex-Commando and one of Australia's leading ADF career transition experts. Call 1300 112 114 to enquire about NJN's ADF resume services.

Nuance is the key

The answer lies in our willingness to accept that its okay to be 'less than an expert'...and that we do indeed have exposure to a great many skills that we can talk about in an honest fashion. Its simple. If you are an expert, then claim expertise. If you are not, then just claim whatever level of skill you possess. Here are a few suggestions for claiming different levels of capability:

- I do have an awareness of...
- I've had exposure to...
- I'm okay at...
- I'm good at...
- I'm very good at...
- I'm competent at...

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VALE

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 Max NORRIS
 LTCOL James WOOD
 Keith Gregory SMITH
 WO2 Michael John CRAIG CSM
 John Robert WILSON
 LT Arthur "Itchy" EASTWOOD
 Thomas Allen McMahon (99.5 years old)
 STARR Ernest George
 MAJOR GENERAL MIKE CLIFFORD AM CSC

2nd/4th Independent Company
 2nd/7th Commando Squadro
 1 Company
 1 Company
 2nd/3rd Independent Company
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Major General Michael Clifford, AM, CSC

previous Head of Corps 2004 - 2005

Major General Clifford was born in Sydney and educated at St Peters College, Adelaide. He graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in 1976 and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

As a junior officer he served in a range of regimental, staff and instructional appointments including 139 Signal Squadron (6 Brigade), and the Commando Regiment Signal Squadron. In 1984-85 he served in Operations Branch of Headquarters 1st Division as the intelligence and electronic warfare staff officer.

In 1987 Major General Clifford was seconded to the United Nations as a Military Observer with the Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East. During his time with UNTSO he served on the Golan Heights and in Southern Lebanon. On return to Australia he was posted to 3 Brigade in Townsville, as Officer Commanding 103 Signal Squadron.

In 1993, while a tactics instructor at the Land Warfare Centre, Major General Clifford deployed to Somalia during OPERATION SOLACE as a member of the team that undertook the operational analysis of Australia's contribution to the US led OPERATION RESTORE HOPE.

He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1993 and was appointed Director Electronic Warfare and Special Intelligence in Army Office. In 1996 he was posted as Commanding Officer of the School of Signals and in 1998 was appointed as Staff Officer Operations to the Chief of the Defence Force.

Major General Clifford was promoted to Colonel in 1999 when he was appointed as the Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Force. He was promoted to



Brigadier in 2002 when appointed Director General Defence Information Environment in the Office of the Chief Information Officer. In early 2003 he was appointed Director General Future Land Warfare in Army Headquarters before taking over as Director General Preparedness and Plans - Army, in March 2003. He was appointed as the Commandant Australian Command Staff College, in January 2005 and was promoted Major General and assumed the appointment as Head Information Capability Management Division, in the Chief Information Officer Group, in June 2005.

Major General Clifford is a graduate of the Command and Staff College, Queenscliff (1991), the Joint Services Staff College (1998) and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (2001). His tertiary qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts from Queensland University, a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration from Monash University and a Master of Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales. He has also undertaken post-graduate studies in business at Mt Eliza and Harvard Business Schools. He is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Public Policy at the Australian National University. Major General Clifford is also a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Major General Clifford was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in the 1998 Australia Day Honours list for his service as Commanding Officer of the School of Signals and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2002 Australia Day Honours list for his service as Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Force.



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VALE Dr Jim Wood, RFD, ED, Colonel (Rtd)

(extract of eulogy by Derek Wood)



My father, James Wood, was born in Neutral Bay, on 31 January 1937. His parents later moved to the Sutherland Shire in Sydney where he was one of the first children to be enrolled in the one-room school at Woronora River. For a few months the family lived in a tent in a bush camp, before moving to the Herne Bay Housing Settlement.

After completing his Intermediate Certificate at Sutherland Intermediate High School, Dad worked at the NSW Electricity Commission as a clerk. Soon after he enrolled as an evening student at St George Technical College, Kogarah, where he completed his Leaving Certificate.

It was in 1956 that Dad enlisted in 1 Commando Company where he trained hard and was later awarded his green beret. He was fortunate to strike up a lifelong friendship with Company Sergeant-Major Ken Curran OAM, the unarmed combat instructor, some years his senior. Dad always looked up to Ken as an inspiring example of honesty, discipline, hard work and fairness. In his memoirs, Dad wrote about the day of his wedding when...

Ken Curran and Tex Groves came directly from a bivouac and the solemnity of the wedding breakfast was somewhat unsettled for me when Ken Curran leaned forward in order that I might see that tucked into his Battledress jacket were two

thunder flashes. Both were later detonated as Colleen and I drove away from the Church, Ken having in the meantime attached them to a long piece of string tied to our car and initiated at the appropriate moment to the amazement of the wedding guests.

Dad completed his parachuting course in 1957. He was commissioned as an officer in 1961, promoted to Captain in 1964, to Lieutenant Colonel in 1978 and to Colonel in 1987. He retired from the Army Reserve on age in 1992 after 37 years of service.

Dad's brothers, Peter and Mike, also served at 1 Commando Company and I served at 2 Commando Company.

In the days when teachers were in short supply, Dad gained a scholarship to Sydney Teachers' College and at the same time studied as an evening student at the University of Sydney for a Bachelor of Arts degree. He taught as a secondary teacher at Cleveland Street and Mona Vale High Schools for a number of years.

Over the period 1967-1984, Dad held a range of civilian appointments with the Departments of Defence and Foreign Affairs, and with the intelligence community. He had postings in Canberra, Melbourne, at the Australian Embassy in Djakarta, also Headquarters British Forces in Hong Kong, and the Australian Embassy in Tokyo.

In 1971 he completed a Bachelor of Education at Monash University. Whilst living in Hong Kong he served part-time with The Volunteers, and completed a Master of Arts in Comparative Asian Studies at Hong Kong University. He gained his PhD at Deakin University in 1986 on the subject of 'Australian Defence Policy 1945-1949'. In the same year he was awarded a Defence Fellowship, also spent a year on full time duty, visiting the US and Europe. He wrote 'Mobilisation: An Outline Record of its Origin and Development in Respect of Land Forces.'



In Victoria, Dad had postings with 1RVR and 6RVR. From 1979-1981 he was the Commanding Officer of Melbourne University Regiment, during which time the size of the Regiment doubled, and the first female officers were recruited. Dad initiated the Sir Edmund Herring annual lecture series, which provides outstanding speakers on leadership, military history, and command.

In 1981, he was appointed SO1 Infantry on HQ 3rd Division, with responsibilities for co-ordinating career planning for Infantry officers and senior NCOs. Upon returning to Melbourne from Japan, he served as the Principal Project Officer, Victoria, for the Bicentennial Military Tattoo in 1988.

In 1988 he returned to teaching at Fairhills High School, where he was the Head of English and Co-

ordinator of the Bright Sparks Committee promoting Gifted Education in the Knox District.

From 1990-1992 he was the Colonel Project Officer at the Command and Staff College, Queenscliff.

Dad wrote papers on military history, gave presentations, and contributed many articles to the *Defence Force Journal*. He also made submissions to various inquiries, including the Millar Inquiry into the CMF in 1974. He had two books published: *The Forgotten Force: The Australian Military Contribution to the Occupation of Japan 1946-1952* (Allen and Unwin, 1998) and *Chiefs of the Australian Army: Higher Command of the Australian Military Forces 1901-1914* (Australian Military History Publications, 2006).

In 2011 he was appointed as a Vice-Patron of Military History and Heritage Victoria.

Since retirement from teaching, his efforts on behalf of those Australians who served in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan in the post-World War II period consumed much of his time. Dad wrote a major submission, 'Australia's Forgotten Force – Case Studies – Justice delayed is Justice denied', as a response to the 'Inquiry into the refusal to issue Entitlements to, Withholding and Forfeiture of Defence Honours and Awards', being undertaken by the Defence Honours and Appeals Tribunal.

Early in 2016, Dad was diagnosed as suffering from angiosarcoma, a rare form of cancer. He was under the expert care of oncologist Dr Jayesh Desai at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. This has been a roller-coaster ride, during which Dad fought bravely, which was so characteristic of the hard work and enthusiasm he demonstrated throughout his life. Finally his suffering ended on 30 June 2017 and he is now at peace.

Dad's funeral was a great tribute to his life and he is missed terribly by so many. He is survived by his loving wife Dr Colleen Wood, his daughter Dr Erica Wood, his son Derek Wood and youngest daughter Natasha Wood.




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SGT Ian Turner

2nd Commando Regiment

- 15th July 2017

SGT Ian James Turner was demoted to CPL due to two incidents on a NZ Air Force C130 flight to Iraq on 30 JUL 2016. Ian admitted to one but as the other person did not Ian was dealt with by discipline and admin while in Iraq.

Ian's military career started when going through Kapooka. Ian won the boxing and then went into 2RAR and did East Timor, whilst there his section came in from a patrol and on hearing of a boxing tournament against the Kiwis, Ian immediately changed into shorts and entered the contest. There were five bouts of which the Kiwis won four and Ian won his. Thereafter he claimed he had fought internationally and 'was undefeated'.

He beret qualified in 4RAR (CDO) and up until he died he had qualified in over 150 courses, he held a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Counter Terrorism and was about to commence a PhD to further his CT capabilities.

Although he was recommended several times to seek a commission he continually refused as he would have been required to leave his SF orientation and thereby leave the best blokes he had ever met. His peer support in B Coy was simply fantastic.

He did seven combat tours including multiple tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, gained Gallantry and Commendation Awards, was responsible for the blowing up of many Afghanistan drug factories and destroying millions of dollars' worth of opiate stock.

It has been said that he personally had the highest number of enemy KIA amongst Coalition Operatives, his teams consistently had top operational success rates and that many of our SF personnel are alive today due to Ian's unique operational methodologies.

Ian was renowned for his black and white honesty, his medical care skills and his meticulous attention to planning and tactical implementation detail. He loved animals and wept when on tour he had indigenous children literally die in his arms as he was providing medical attention.

His self-guilt complex commenced when he blamed himself for the loss of Luke Worsley (they

were staunch mates) and Mike Fussell in November 2007, then when "Bairdy" went, Ian believed had he personally pushed harder then he would have been beside Cam and able to protect him; from which he took his self-guilt to his death,

In Iraq, he was responsible for retraining over 500 Iraqi SF personnel and moulding them and their in-field tactics into multiple operational successes while reducing their unit KIA and WIA losses. This did not go un-noticed by the Iraqi upper echelon as one called into SOCMD asking to be introduced to this 'lon the Lion of Baghdad' (because they could not pronounce Ian they pronounced it as lon - hence the nomenclature) and were most taken aback when they found Ian was an NCO and not of at least Colonel rank.

Ian carried PTSD and other medically recognised issues from 2008 onwards which were compounding but Ian would not step back, he initiated personal camouflage techniques and was able to convince others that he was good to go.

Prior to his last Iraq tour and with his personal problems he was selected to oversee the Brisbane G20 security for President Obama because of his unique planning and proven team rapid interdiction tactics.

He passed his Jump Master course this year having experienced a malfunction on his first descent on the Friday. But, because he didn't want to be back squadded, he went up again that afternoon and had a second malfunction so he was very please the reserve 'chutes worked and provided a case of beer to the reserve chute packer.

Ian made friends with coalition men and especially amongst the Afghan and Iraqi SF ranks. He thought and spoke so highly of those countries that we are having some of his ashes spread there this year so as part of our family will reside with them into the future.

If you were a friend of Ian you enjoyed a wonderful friendship, yes, they called him 'Mad Cxnt' in a reverend frame, but if you were an enemy and confronted him to injure his team, it was always full stop for and your team.

Unfortunately, just prior to his second suicide attempt, he was told 'the army no longer has a need for your type Turner, you are a thing of the past, time for you to get out' so he did, on the 15th July just gone.

*Written by his father Mike Turner
ex 1 Commando Company*



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TED LOVE

British 6th Airborne Division



Ted Love (above) after receiving his Legion of Honour Medal from the French Consulate in Sydney.

An award well deserved as Ted jumped into Merville Gun Battery.

On 6 June 1944, the British 6th Airborne Division was given the task of securing the left flank of the Allied seaborne landings. One of their objectives was the destruction of the Merville Gun Battery. Allied planners had judged from the size of the concrete gun emplacements that the guns must be around 150 mm in calibre. If so, the guns would have a range of about 8 miles (13 km) and could threaten Sword Beach, to the west of Ouistreham, where the 3rd British Infantry Division were due to land later that day.[1]

The battery was defended by a 20 mm anti-aircraft gun and several machine guns in 15 gun positions.

New number plates for the Commander of D Coy at Long Tan



A great purchase by Harry Smith who was the OC D COY during the Long Tan battle.

David Law found these Long Tan number plates on the WWW for auction recently, at Hervey Bay.

I jumped in and made a cash offer ahead of the auction and got them at Maryborough recently. They were made in 2013 and have never been used.

Small world, as the owner was Les Wilson who was Toni McRae's partner. He had bought them from PPQ in 2013.

It was Toni who helped me start my book in 2013 then up and died in 2014 a year ahead of the publishing in 2015.

When I get them transferred to me with Main Roads this coming week I will mount them properly. They have a mounting bracket so no screws are visible. And thus they are secure from stealing.

As a number of people have said "Fitting plates for the battle commander's car".

Regards

Harry Smith

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AJ430-1.
DAHS (HLTH) 19

WEARING OF GP BOOTS DURING
TRAINING INVOLVING PROLONGED RUNNING

DGAT

2) *[Handwritten notes and scribbles]*

For Information: Pers Br

Log Br

Mat Br

Lieutenant Colonel
SO1
Pers Coord

29 AUG 1983

1. The GP Boot is designed to protect the foot and ankle during prolonged walking over rough terrain and, when correctly fitted, it accomplishes this very well.
2. The boot is not designed to run in for more than short distances as damage to feet, ankle joint, knee and spine increase considerably at distances in excess of two kilometers.
3. Although it is accepted that realistic training must incur some physical and perhaps medical penalty, it is considered that the penalty incurred in 'operationally unlikely' exercise training is not only undesirable, it is counter productive in that permanent harm may be done to otherwise fully trained soldiers. Running in GP Boots for prolonged distances is considered 'operationally unlikely'.
4. Consequently, where prolonged running/double march in excess of two kilometers is required for training it is suggested that suitable footwear should be used - ie a running shoe.
5. For your consideration.

[Handwritten signature]

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A RIVER OF SWEAT

by Martin BLANDY (1 CDO COY, 1st CDO REGT 1981-1985)

Anyone who served in one of Australia's Commando units will well remember the blood, sweat and tears we shed to earn the right to wear (and continue wearing) the coveted Sherwood Green beret with a fake leather band.

This story does not involve the shedding of any blood or tears but does concern perspiration, a river of sweat.

Friday the 27 May, 1983 was a fine autumn morning when members of 1 Commando Company, 1st Commando Regiment, departed CHQ at Georges Heights (Mosman) in Sydney for Richmond Air Force Base to undertake a water jump into Shoal Bay.

Shoal Bay is approximately 160 kilometres in a direct line from RAAF Richmond and is better known for the township of Nelson Bay. It is also only 20 or so kilometres from the Salt Ash DZ, where many of us were first introduced to the most fun you can ever have with your pants on!

On arrival at RAAF Richmond we milled around for the customary 30 minutes or so before donning wet suits in preparation for our water jump.

Then followed interminable delays while weather reports came in of low cloud over the DZ (hey guys, it's a water jump – low cloud and/or high wind speed doesn't matter!).

By now, it was mid-morning and despite it being autumn, the temperature was climbing steadily and sitting around in a full 7 mm thick wetsuit was starting to become a tad uncomfortable.

Finally, we received the order to draw parachutes and form up for "Para Parade", the fanatical safety checking of paratroopers and parachutes that helped our Parachute Training School remain fatality-free for so long. Then came the much awaited order to "Emplane" and finally we were on our way.

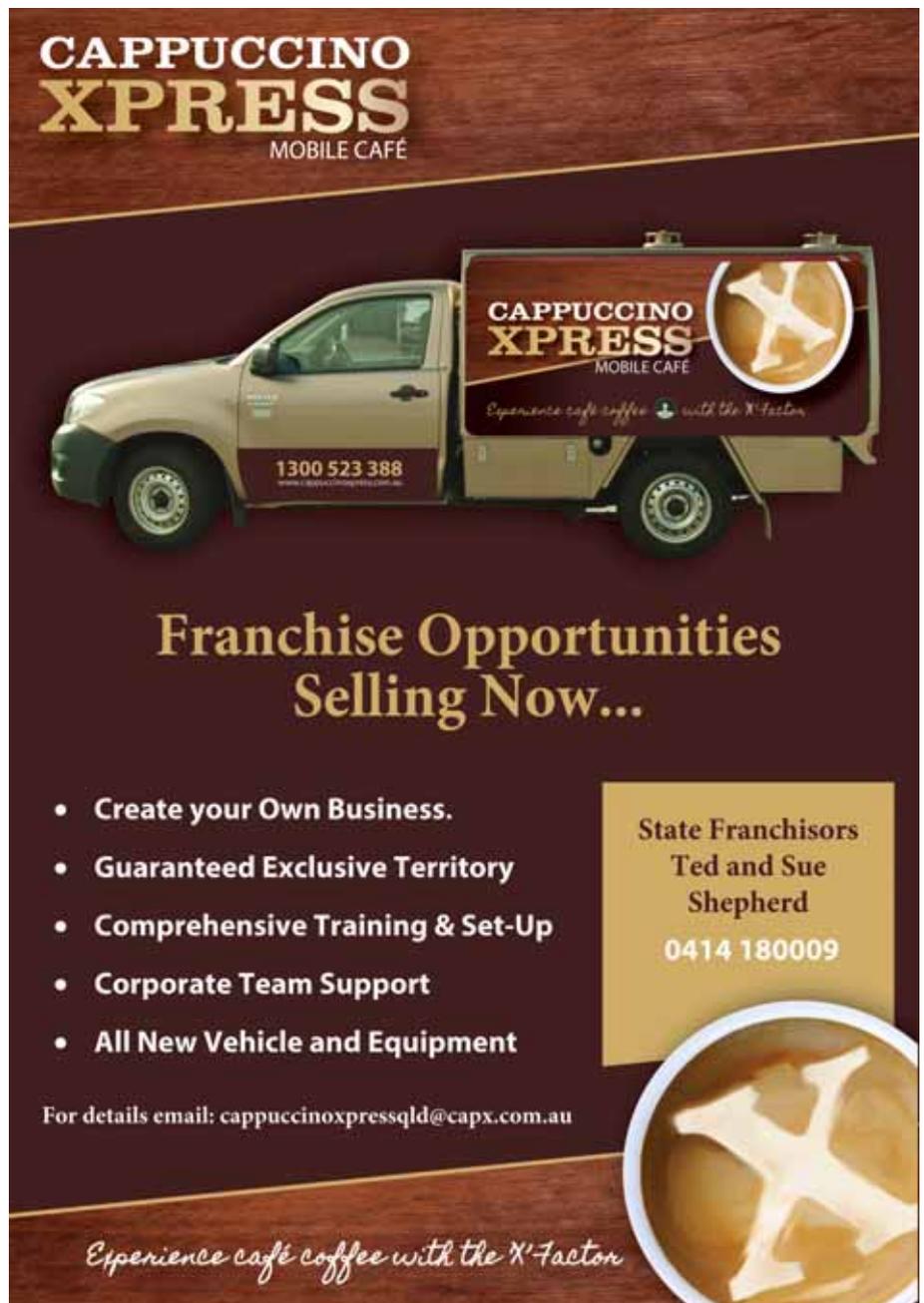
The flight from RAAF Richmond to Shoal Bay is of short duration and most of us were eagerly looking forward to the jump and being able to cool off after nearly three (3) hours in our wetsuits. On arrival at the DZ the rear ramp of our Lockheed Hercules C130H was lowered in preparation for the jump but, unfortunately, the DZSO had other ideas. You guessed it, low cloud – so we circled around and around and around and around.

I was sitting about halfway along the port side gazing idly out the rear ramp looking at the cool, inviting waters of Shoal Bay when I noticed

the port side RAAF Loadmaster, with left arm extended and index finger pointing at the floor, start advancing up the fuselage. As he neared me I glanced down to see what was attracting his attention. It was a small river of clear liquid that he had tracked from the rear ramp, some 10 or 12 metres away. He passed me and stopped at the cuff of the right ankle of the wetsuit of one of our members two or so seats from me. Upon looking up into the eyes of the source of the trail, our Greek member coolly yelled: "It's sweat"!

The irony is that within five (5) minutes or so, we were in the water after completing our 1,200 foot descent. I don't know why he couldn't be like the rest of us and wait!

Postscript: To protect the innocent, I am prepared to say that our prolific "sweater" was NOT 'Fiasco' (Gary FIAKOS) but another member with Greek heritage.



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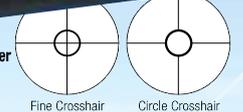


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PERTH CHARITY "BRAVERY TRUST" STEPS IN TO AVOID PAUPER FUNERAL FOR MILITARY VETERAN

It was a travesty narrowly avoided — an ex-soldier estranged from his family who had taken his own life almost ending up in a pauper's grave because no one would pay for his funeral.

That was until Perth-based charity Bravery Trust stepped in to ensure this man — who had served his country, but like many others, had returned home broken, damaged and fighting his own internal war — received a proper farewell.

They even bought replica medals for his teenage sons, which they proudly wore to his funeral and promised to wear on Anzac Day.

Even though it was not strictly in Bravery Trust's charter, when chairman Peter Fitzpatrick heard about how the Government and 12 other military charities had declined to help, his first thought at the prospect of this veteran being buried in a cardboard box was: "Not on our watch."

"How can you say someone is not in need if they're going to be put in a pauper's grave when they've served their country?" he said.

Sadly, this man's demise is not isolated and he's one of dozens of veterans who have taken their own lives so far this year.

There have been 325 confirmed suicides of people with at least one day of service with the Australian Defence Force between 2001 and 2015.

Mr Fitzpatrick estimated that figure would be more than 400 by now — 10 times the number of soldiers killed in battle over the same period — and more than 40 suicides alone so far this year.

Bravery Trust was one of more than 400 organisations and people to make a submission to a Senate inquiry into suicide by veterans, which was prompted by an investigation by *The Sunday Times* one year ago. A report on its findings is due next month.

Bravery Trust, which started in Perth in 2012 and is lesser-known than other military charities such as the RSL and Legacy, is an urgent financial safety net for veterans and their families, helping them pay their mortgage or rent, utility bills, children's school fees, health expenses and providing them with Coles food vouchers.

The charity spends about \$100,000 a month — or more than \$1.1 million last year — to help struggling families. On top of that, it provides education and training scholarships for veterans and their partners.

Mr Fitzpatrick said it was a sad truth that we seemed to be more focused on honouring the dead than supporting the living.

"There's a lot of focus on Anzac Day, commemorations of battles, Long Tan and all of that, and sometimes you look at that and say, 'Wow, we're really focused on everyone getting on the bandwagon with these events'," he said.

"Everyone loves Anzac Day, but what about those

people who can't afford to feed their families. Are they being left behind?

"One veteran said to me, 'I was prepared to be wounded, I was prepared to die, but when I came home I was not prepared to be forgotten'."

Army veteran Jesse Bird, 32, took his own life last month and his family believes the rejection of his DVA compensation claim for post-traumatic stress disorder that he had been pursuing for years pushed him over the edge. Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan has ordered a review into that case.

Bravery Trust says it's aware of three other veteran suicides since then.

Mr Fitzpatrick said in many cases, former soldiers were too proud or found it hard to ask for help, and were forced to wait months for the Department of Veterans Affairs to process their claims.

Many fell through the cracks after leaving the "military family", ending up unemployed, homeless, experiencing relationship breakdowns and being at risk of suicide.

But he stressed most veterans returned from duty and were able to adjust well back into civilian life.

Mr Fitzpatrick said improvements were being made, but there was still a massive way to go to make the bureaucracy veteran-friendly and for military charities, which have a combined annual revenue of \$19 billion compared to DVA's annual budget of \$12 billion, to work more collaboratively.

"Sure we're working to address these things, but with three (suicides) in the last fortnight you've got to say we've got to move faster," he said.

Mr Fitzpatrick, a veteran himself and chairman of the national SAS Association, said knowing someone had their backs was just as valuable to veterans as financial help.

"Because in the military, people have got one another's backs," he said.

RSL WA operations manager Martin Holzberger said defence, government and charities had roles to play in helping veterans in post-military life.

A DVA spokesman said the Federal Government had committed \$166 million to overhaul and modernise its processes and IT systems as it was accepted its operations and infrastructure were "no longer fit for purpose".

He said suicide was an Australia-wide issue and the ADF was not immune, with the Government committing to a series of actions last month, including improving support, processes and culture, after a taskforce review.

The right kind of support at the right time for ex-ADF members was crucial, which is why the Government introduced "non-liability health care", providing quick access to treatment for "certain physical and all mental health conditions" and reducing the length of time to process claims, the spokesman said.



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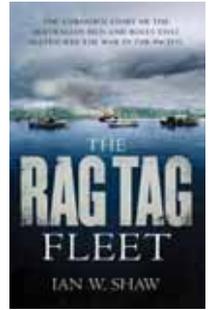
BOOK REVIEW:

The Rag Tag Fleet

The Unknown Story of the Australian Men and Boats that helped Win the War in the Pacific

by Ian Shaw, Hachette Australia, 2017

Reviewed by Jim Truscott



This little known story is a long overdue record of how a small fleet of Australian trawlers not much larger than gun boats supplied US and Australian forces in the attack on Buna and subsequently across the Pacific in the Philippines and China. Evolving from an exploratory US mission, it quickly became obvious that there were very few deep water ports or port facilities and that there was need for a Small Ships Section to fill the gap until specialized US vessels would become available in mid-1943. The US Army strategy to acquire these Small Ships commenced in June 1942 and aided by the Australian Shipping Control Board they searched for commercial fishing trawlers vessels and crews that could winch themselves back off a beach. Soon there were some 17 trawlers repainted grey and armed with machine guns in Sydney along with an array of sail boats and punts and a 280 tonne schooner as a mobile floating command post.

As the Japanese sought to sever the supply line between America and Australia, Small Ships bases were then established in Townsville and Port Moresby with Milne Bay becoming a major base. Coordinated by the Combined Operations Services Command (COSC) the Small Ships became integral to the build-up for the attack on Buna. As air resupply was thwarted by bad weather, limited airfields and a shortage of aircraft, the Small Ships became a critical pipeline carrying men and munitions for the allied assault on Buna, Sanananda and Gona. The sea lines of communications from Milne Bay were absolutely vital to moving parts of the assaulting force into positions and in their resupply. In the build-up a Japanese air raid destroyed four of the Small Ships just before the attack was to be scheduled with a crucial loss of artillery guns and ammunition. Then two more Small Ships were damaged leaving only one operating. The story reminded me of the equally dire resupply situation just a couple of days before the International Force in East Timor was about to be lodged in Dili but without adequate commercial ships for supply.

The assault on Buna began but it ground to a halt for lack of resupply. Air supply could not match sea supply and the direction was given for all small ships from Sydney to Port Moresby to go to Milne Bay. The changing out of US commanders at Buna made little difference to the bogged down assault when it was

armour and more artillery that was needed. The account highlighted the chestnuts of unsupported infantry attacks being unworkable and that air supply cannot deliver the tonnage required compared with sea. Soon eight light Stuart tanks were delivered by the Small Ships and specialized landing craft started to arrive which allowed the landing of the Australian 18th Brigade. Even though steel barges that could be towed were also introduced and enabling supply bases to be better set up there was still the constant risk of the Small Ships running aground by night and being strafed by day including friendly fire from other vessels and aircraft.

The battle for the beach heads was over by January 1943 and from that point on amphibious warfare become the norm in the Pacific. Large oceangoing tugs and landing ships which were being constructed in Australia and the US started to arrive in 1943 and a training program was set up in Sydney to build up Australian crew numbers. The Small Ships were then absorbed into the US Army Transportation Service (ATS) and subsequently involved in operations in the Philippines and China before being closed down in January 1946. I would have liked to have seen more images and a coastal chart of New Guinea but none the less this book is an important contribution to both the military history of the US and Australian armies and it redress the lack of acknowledgement of the involvement of Small Ships. It finishes with the long overdue recognition by the Australian Government in 2009 when the Australian members of this US Army unit were finally granted entitlement to Australian Defence honours. It is a thoroughly enjoyable read.

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Review on Settlers Foods
by Russell Maddocks



After cooking the dehydrated foods from Settlers Foods, to my surprise, I found the ingredients quiet tasty. It has all the ingredients you need to survive if you are trekking – sailing – or camping for a long period of time or just storing food for the unexpected. It is shelf stable with a long shelf life and in several convenient sizes which are light to carry and easily stored.

Settlers Foods is an unbeatable choice for convenient survival food. Simply add hot water. At the end of the day if I were to go adventuring I wouldn't hesitate to store Settlers Foods for the unexpected considering... Taste, Nutrition, Shelf Life. All adequate for the purpose and highly recommended.

settlersfoods.com.au



BOOK REVIEW:

Cyberspace in Peace and War

Martin Libicki, Naval Institute Press
Annapolis, Maryland, 2016

Reviewed by Jim Truscott

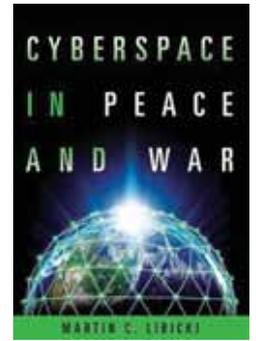
This book is most informative about the potential transformation of warfare across the continuum of peace time friction and kinetic conflict, and it goes well beyond the realm of the computer power user into a high classified and speculative space. The author draws on much material from previously published (by him) RAND reports and the treatise is in five major sections consisting of foundations, policies, operations, strategies and norms. It is a highly technical read and by necessity it introduces much new terminology which requires readers to adapt to language like advanced persistent threats (APT), new concepts like the 'zero-day vulnerability' in commercial software before patching can rectify faults, and nuclear notions of 'mutually assumed disruption (MAD).' There are a myriad of topics and many current cyber warfare examples under the themes of disruption, corruption and disruption. It is the type of book that will see many new versions as the Internet of Things takes shape, especially as it is USA-centric in focus and there must be an Australian approach which is not reliant on our American allies.

I found it intriguing to read that as a rule, stopping a cyberattack requires detecting it as such, and that there are those organizations who know that they being attacked and there are those who do not know that they are being attacked in peace and in war. It is fascinating that cyberwar is described as the most serious near-term threat to the USA and the fact that the US Cyber Command (CYBERCOM) is under their Strategic Command begs the reader to ask why Australia does not have such a Cyber Command. Is the Australian Signals Directorate enough? It reminded me of our own cyber warrior and filibuster attacks when I was in the SAS to successfully put a virus in the Battlefield Command Support System that was fielded by 1st Brigade in Exercise Phoenix in the Northern Territory in 1996.

The author explains that one of the many cruxes in developing and executing capability is being able to actually 'weaponize' cyber warfare. Hence it is more a textbook for academics and strategists and less so for cyber warfare practitioners especially as no one really boasts about cyberwarfare capability, with the partial exception of the USA through what

was released by Snowden about the National Security Agency's (NSA) capabilities. The author highlights debate over the 'Las Vegas rules' that treat cyberspace as a separate venue of conflict and not subject to the Laws of Armed Conflict. It highlights the obvious need for consideration of cross-domain (land, sea, air and space) strategy and its escalation into kinetic warfare, regardless of the rules that may apply.

The conclusion about whether the world will be less violent with cyberwar than without it, is thought provoking. Hence this book is a must read for every officer in Australia's Military high command and other Government departments who are responsible for national security in peace and war. One thing is certain, the hackers, especially those that are government sponsored, will already have it on their e-book shelves.



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IT'S RAINING CARROTS!

by Martin BLANDY (1 CDO COY, 1st CDO REGT 1981-1985)

On Saturday the 9 April, 1983 over 100 men from 1 Commando Company, 1st Commando Regiment, were driven from our then base at Georges Heights (Mosman) in Sydney to RAAF Base, Richmond to undertake an airborne insertion at Evans Head, on the far north coast of New South Wales.

Our OC was Major Greg NANCE, a former SASR Officer and qualified Parachute Jumping Instructor [and more recently, the leader of Australia's security team at the 2012 London Olympics] who had planned the jump as the start of a 2 week exercise in rainforest around Evans Head as a lead-up to the first-ever *Operation Night Falcon* exercise to be held in Tasmania during winter.

Because a Lockheed C130H Hercules can only carry 64 paratroopers, we had 2 aircraft allocated to us. I was in the first stick in the first aircraft, Major NANCE was towards the end of the second stick to enable him to land in the middle of the DZ for the Company to form up on him.

I was fortunate enough to score a seat close to a porthole and sat back to enjoy the flight north. We took off and as soon as the aircraft cleared Sydney Air Traffic Controlled airspace [about 50 nm], the plane dove down and commenced 'tactical flying'.

For those unfamiliar with the term, tactical flying involves flying below 200 feet AGL to avoid radar detection. At that altitude, the aircraft is lost in 'ground clutter' and can approach a target unseen. On arriving at the target, the aircraft violently pulls up to 1,000 feet, drops its paratroopers and then dives violently back down to below 200 feet. At best, the aircraft will appear on a radar screen for 20-30 seconds before being lost in ground clutter again. With human nature being what it is, most radar operators would think the 3-4 blips on their screen were a phantom return and disregard it.

Anyway, my aircraft undoubtedly had the world champion of tactical flying at the controls. He threw the 34 tonne aircraft around like it was a fighter jet. At one stage, I looked out the porthole and could see the starboard wingtip about 20 feet off the ground as we pulled a turn in a grassy gully.

I was having a ball but

cannot say the same for some of my colleagues. Quite a few were filling the giant economy size 'barf bags' the RAAF carry on board for airsickness cases.

As a disciplined body, the RAAF have some hard and fast rules. One is that you take off with you everything you bring on board, including 'barf bags'. Consequently, several of our members had to jump with their barf bags, holding onto them over their reserves.

Even though we were using the T10-D canopies (or smash D's as we used to call them) my landing went smoothly and was very soft. I moved off the DZ and took up a position in bush off to the side. By this time the second aircraft was dropping its load and it wasn't long before the entire Company was ready to move out. I could see that Major NANCE was somewhat cranky and I asked one of the senior NCO's: "What's wrong with the Boss"?

Here's what happened: Major NANCE was under canopy, floating down like a 'Fairies Fart' when a full barf bag, courtesy of someone on the second aircraft, fell clean through the 2 foot diameter anti-oscillation hole in the top of his canopy and hit him on the head. Even with a paratrooper helmet on, he still ended up with carrots and peas in his ears!

Fortunately, shortly afterwards we did a deep water river crossing so the Boss was able to wash the airborne detritus and odour off himself.

No suspect ever came forward and the general consensus was that it was the shock of the canopy opening that caused the bag to fall, rather than being deliberately dropped after canopy inflation.



Australian Army Special Operations Command

WO2 MICHAEL JOHN CRAIG, CSM – MILITARY BIOGRAPHY

Warrant Officer Class Two Mick Craig joined the Australian Regular Army in 1991 and was posted to 2/4 RAR in Townsville. In 1994 he deployed to Rwanda as part of the Australian contingent to support the UN mission. Posted to 4 RAR in Sydney in 1996, he completed Commando reinforcement training in June 1997. Since then he has filled a variety of positions within 4 RAR (Cdo), the 2nd Commando Regiment and the 1st Commando Regiment. Operational tours include East Timor, OIF 1(Iraq) as part of the Australian Special Forces task group in 2003 and a second tour of Iraq as a member of the first Australian team posted to the US Counterinsurgency Centre for Excellence (COIN CFE) at Taji in 2006. He received a Chief of Joint Operations Commendation for his work at the COIN CFE.



Iraq Campaign Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Australian Active Service Medal with Clasps:

- ICAT
- IRAQ 2003
- East Timor

Australian Service Medal with Clasps:
- Rwanda
- CT/SR

Centenary Medal
Defence Long Service Medal
Australian Defence Medal
United Nations - Timor
United Nations - Rwanda
NATO ISAF Medal
Infantry Combat Badge
Chief of Joint Operations Commendation - Operation CATALYST 2006
ADF Commendation - Bronze - Operation SLIPPER 2013
Soldiers Medallion - 1998

On return to Australia he was posted to Special Forces Training Centre as a Training Developer but continued in the COIN theme when possible and became the SOCOMD representative at the working groups writing LWP-301 Counterinsurgency. He also wrote the companion doctrinal publication LWP-G 0-2-6 Counterinsurgency Junior Leaders Handbook.

During this time he visited the US Special Forces Training Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and the US Joint Counterinsurgency Academy at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He also wrote a paper for the Australian Army Journal on the lack of COIN and professional education for Australian NCOs and soldiers. He completed a degree in Vocational Education and Training (VET) with Charles Sturt University in June 2009.

He was the Company Sergeant Major, Alpha Commando Company Group, 2nd Commando Regiment from Feb 2009 - Nov 2010 which included rotation XII, SOTG in Afghanistan. During this tour his company orchestrated and prosecuted the strategically significant battle at East Shah Wali Kot over four epic days in the field in contact with the enemy in the Chenartu Valley for which the Battle Honour 'East Shah Wali Kot' was awarded.

WO2 Craig was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal in the 2013 Australia Day Honours List for his work in the field of Counterinsurgency Doctrine and Training.

In January 2013 he returned to Afghanistan as the TF66 Liaison Officer at ISAF SOF HQ in Kabul. He was awarded an ADF Commendation for his service to TF66 during this tour.

In 2014, WO2 Craig attended and completed the Regimental Sergeant Major Course at Canungra.

WO2 Michael John Craig has been awarded the following Honours and Awards:

Conspicuous Service Medal

Return from Active Service Badge

During WO2 Craig's service to his country in the Australian Army he deployed on the following Operations: OPERATION TAMAR - (Rwanda) Aug 1994 - Feb 1995 (A Coy, 2/4 RAR)

OPERATION TANAGER (East Timor) Apr - May 2001 (4 RAR)

OPERATION FALCONER (Iraq) Mar - May 2003 (4 RAR Cdo)

OPERATION CATALYST (Iraq) Feb - Jul 2010 (4 RAR Cdo)

OPERATION SLIPPER (Afghanistan) Feb - Jul 2010 (2 Cdo Regt)

OPERATION SLIPPER (Afghanistan) Jan - Jul 2013 (2 Cdo Regt)

He is survived by his wife, Caroline, his son, James and stepson, Nathan.

Other family members:

Father - John Craig

Step Mother - Yvonne Craig

Lisa - step sister

Kelly - step sister

Wesley - step brother





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Association Green Jacket Pocket (Replacement Pocket)	\$3.00		\$15.00	
Association Green Jacket complete with pocket	Nil		\$410.00	
Badge – Cloth – Commando Parachute	\$3.00		\$6.00	
Badge – Beret (new Design)	\$3.00		\$15.00	
Badge – Car Window Decal	\$1.00		\$2.00	
Badge – Lapel – 1 st Commando Regiment	\$3.00		\$10.00	
Badge – Lapel – Australian Commando Association	\$3.00		\$10.00	
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Badge – Name (Optional – Years of Service/Nickname)	Nil		\$20.00	
*Beret – Green Qualified Members only	\$10.00		\$32.00	
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Jacket – Lined & Waterproof with Aust CDO Assoc logo	\$10.00		\$65.00	
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Plaque – 1 st Commando Regiment	\$15.00		\$50.00	
Plaque – Australian Commando Association	\$10.00		\$50.00	
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Tie – 1 st Commando Regiment	\$10.00		\$20.00	
Tie – Australian Commando Assoc.	\$10.00		\$30.00	
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DEATH'S LESSONS LEARNED

Three themes arising from the recent death of former 8 RAR soldier, a June 1970 National Service reinforcement to A Coy, prompt me to write.

He had led a solitary life in a Brisbane caravan park, and had no contact with his children or any other NOK for at least 30 years.

The Association had an address, but he was not a paid-up member and had no known contact with members of the battalion. There was no will, very little in the way of assets and no next of kin.

His only contact was with his neighbour, her partner and their young daughter.

You are not alone

If, like him, you live alone and have no family contact – and even that's not the case - I urge you to ask your State Secretary to give your contact details to two or three members in your area. The occasional cup of coffee and a chat with fellow veterans could be just what's needed, and often opens the door to other activities. And remember to ask, RU OK?

The shared experience means you don't ever have to explain. A small group like this can provide mutual support when it's needed and encourage us to make proper arrangements for health and other matters.

Planning for the future

Death and taxes are both inevitable, and while we tend not to want to talk about it, the only way to ensure that our wishes are carried out when we die, is to actually plan for the event.

Standard format wills, with instructions, are available from a range of sources, including post offices. Google 'will kits', or go to choice.com.au for a comparison. Or see your solicitor.

Wills are living documents which you should review every time there is a major family event – births, deaths, marriages, divorces, changes to property, real estate and investments. Also consider the following:

Power of Attorney (POA). A standard POA's conditions remain in effect only while you are mentally competent, after which the Adult Guardian or its equivalent is required to make an order governing your future management.

Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA). This continues to have effect even after you lose competence, but it means that you can appoint executors, define their powers and direct when they take effect.

Advanced Health Directive (AHD) or its state equivalent. This enables you to provide instruction as to your future medical treatment, its extent, donation of organs, resuscitation and associated matters.

Justices of the Peace can witness your signature on these documents, noting that two persons who are over the age of 21 and not beneficiaries are required to witness a will.

You may also wish to consider and take advice as to taking out a funeral plan. Ensure that your NOK know where all these documents are lodged.

When you don't plan for the future

The following information may help those who are confronted with similar circumstances.

The veteran died in hospital, so all involved were spared the trauma of discovering someone who had passed away some time before.

DVA were little help, other than depositing the funeral allowance (\$2,000) into his account, but would not provide the account details.

The Public Trustee wanted nothing to do with the matter as they did not hold his will and the estate was far too trivial for them to become involved.

The most useful information they provided was that an organisation called Burial Assistance (1300 304 605) could obtain more information from the bank than an individual could gain, and may be able to contribute to costs. Check to see if this might be applicable in your State.

The death was reported to the bank, who promptly took and destroyed the cards, but they did provide a point of contact for his neighbour, Suzanne.

As the veteran was in rented accommodation, his effects had to be cleared out. There was not much and the majority was old and in poor condition with heavy nicotine staining and had to be destroyed.

It took two weeks to obtain information about how to arrange for the funeral but we got there by:

- taking the death certificate to the undertaker to obtain a quote for an appropriate funeral service and cremation, and have a fall-back position;
- presenting the death certificate and quote to the bank and enquiring as to whether the remaining balance was sufficient to meet the cost; and
- arranging for the funeral director to provide the invoice to the bank for payment.

The military part of the funeral service was relatively easy to arrange in comparison.

There were some other loose ends, including a relatively new car, subject to a loan. The car goes back to the loan company and what happens then depends upon its residual value in relation to the state of the loan.

Note well that the balance of his account, if any, remains with the bank until the account is deemed inactive and passes into consolidated revenue. No will means no executor; no executor means no bequests. The NOK may be able to claim later, but in this case that is unlikely to occur.

My two aims in all of this were to ensure that the veteran had a respectful send-off; and the neighbours be spared the expense of providing the funeral service and cremation – which they were in fact prepared to do. They went above and beyond and we are profoundly grateful. 8 RAR Association later subsidised their out-of-pocket expenses.

I also acknowledge the role of 4 RAR Association President Alan Price, who lives locally and was unstinting in his assistance after being the first point of contact for the neighbours.

Whilst this was provided by 4 RAR Association there is a lesson for all ex military.

Make contact with your Association and keep them in the picture.

Editor





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